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Delegation Attends Baltic Conference in Denmark

NATO Expansion Addressed

LD1209190895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1834 GMT 12 Sep 95

[By Vladimir Suprun]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] RENNE, September 12 (ITAR-TASS) — NATO's eastward expansion is against Russia's national interests and may adversely affect the situation in the entire Europe, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Krylov told reporters here today.

Krylov attended the fourth inter-parliamentary conference on cooperation in the Baltic region which opened today on Denmark's Bornholm Island.

Admitting that the quest of East European countries for membership of NATO "is a matter of bilateral relations," Krylov made clear, however, that Moscow would "take every possible step" to balance down negative implications of this for Russia if NATO's expansion plan entered a practical phase.

Russia would use not only political and economic levers but even military measures should this happen, Krylov said.

However, he ruled out a possibility of "open use of force."

Russia would build up its military potential if she saw some military grouping to strengthen near its border, Krylov said.

He explained that this would spell beefing up the means for defence in border regions.

Baltic Security Given Priority

LD1409083495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0710 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Vladimir Suprun]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ROENNE, Denmark, September 14 (ITAR-TASS) — "European security is unthinkable without security of individual regions, and we give a top priority role to the Baltic in this context," first deputy speaker of the State Duma (Russian parliament lower house) Mikhail Mityukov said in an interview with ITAR-TASS here on Wednesday.

He headed a delegation of Russian legislators at the Fourth Interparliamentary Conference on cooperation in the Baltic region which ended on the Danish island of Bornholm on Wednesday evening.

In Mityukov's opinion, the priority task of strengthening security at a regional level is prompted by the nature of "new risks and challenges", among which he pointed to instability of democratic institutes in some North European countries, social instability and difficulties of the transition period as well as infringement on the rights of national minorities and territorial claims.

Mityukov expressed conviction in this connection that discriminatory citizenship laws adopted by Latvia and Estonia, which violate the rights of many hundred thousand representatives from national minorities, are "a delayed action bomb".

Regrettably, he noted, very many politicians in those states live by recollections of the past instead of thinking seriously about the future.

Appraising the results of the conference, Mityukov said that understandings reached at the forum can give an impetus to the development, above all, of trade, economic and humanitarian relations between north-western Russian regions and border areas of neighbouring countries members of the Baltic Council.

CIS Foreign Ministers Confer on Peacekeeping Concept

*WS1409105995 Minsk BELAPAN in English
0800 GMT 14 Sep 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A conference of representatives of foreign ministries of CIS countries took place in the Headquarters for coordination of military cooperation of the CIS member states in Moscow. As BELAPAN was informed by the deputy director of the CIS Executive Secretariat department for military cooperation and security Oleg Putintsev, the purpose of the conference was to consider and to elaborate the Concept of mutual peace-keeping activity of the CIS member-states. The Draft Concept, elaborated on the instruction of councils of ministers of defence and of foreign affairs and based on the experience achieved both within the Commonwealth and under the scope of the UNO and OSCE [Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe], includes the issues on preventing armed conflicts, on resolving the conflicts without using arms, and on promoting and supporting peace. According to Mr Putintsev, the discussion on the document was rather complicated, and though all the participants of the conference admitted that peace-keeping activity is necessary within the Commonwealth every particular state specified its participation according to possibilities given by the legislation of the state. Moreover, the delegation of the Russian Federation proposed that the conference should not consider the Concept until corresponding documents are elaborated by the UN and the OSCE. The Russian proposal was not accepted to a great extend due to the firm position of the Republic of Belarus. Taking into consideration specific significance of the document the participants decided to draw a wide range of experts who took part in elaborating the Draft Concept and to continue the consideration on September 27. After the final elaboration the Draft Concept on mutual peace-keeping activity will be submitted to the discussion at the Council of Presidents of the CIS countries.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 14 Sep

*LD1409052695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0413 GMT 14 Sep 95*

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, September 14 (Itar-Tass) — One of the main topics of today's leading Russian newspapers is continuation of NATO air raids on the positions of Bosnian Serbs. In the opinion of the ROSSIYSKIY VESTI newspaper, the United Nations increasingly loses control over the situation in and around Bosnia.

"If events develop in this direction further, the U.N. peace-keeping mission will be doomed. Any attempt to resort to it next time may provoke not sympathy but fear among people," the daily writes.

The IZVESTIYA newspaper informs its readers of a coming Moscow visit by U.S. Deputy State Secretary Strobe Talbott. In the opinion of the newspaper's Washington correspondent Vladimir Nadein, Talbott comes to the Russian capital "for persuasions rather than for talks. NATO will not budge an inch in Bosnia. Talbott's task is to explain why," the journalist writes.

The trade union newspaper Trud carries an interview with Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin, where he discusses issues on the Memorandum of Understanding between the U.N. and NATO.

Under the headline "This is genocide. Russia will not leave Serb people in trouble", the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA newspaper prints a statement by the Russian government and a commentary by the Russian premier's press secretary Viktor Konnov.

The press reports that the Russian Ministry for Emergencies, delivering humanitarian aid to Serbs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, has not received so far instructions to evacuate children of Bosnian Serbs from the conflict zone. However, the ministry reported that it has capacities to do the job.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA announces that it will regularly prepare special issues on the situation in Chechnya. Minister for Nationalities and Regional Policy Vyacheslav Mikhaylov and ex-speaker of the previous Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov spell out their viewpoints on ways of settling the Chechen crisis in today's, first, issue.

Reporting the start of the withdrawal of federal troops from Chechnya, the army newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA writes: "Small doubt, it is necessary to withdraw troops, since this is provided for in the achieved understandings. However, the withdrawal should be not only politically useful and necessary but also timely and worthy in form and content".

The daily puts the following question: "Where are guarantees that future 'vacuums' will not be filled in by Dudayev's rebels?"

The Russian government will examine a concept for the development of culture and arts in 1996-1999 at its today's meeting. Minister of Culture Yevgeniy Sidorov outlines the main provisions of this programme in an article printed by ROSSIYSKIY VESTI.

The minister stresses that not a single political party whose aim is to revive a strong and prospering Russia, can achieve its goals without developing national culture.

Grenade Attack on U.S. Embassy; No Casualties

No Responsibility Claimed

MK1409093295 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 14 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Nikolay Gvozdev: "The U.S. Embassy in Moscow Has Been Fired On From a Grenade Launcher. So Far the Reason for the Terrorist Act and Its Perpetrator Are Unknown to Investigators"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Yesterday at about 1625 the old building of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow at 19/23 Novinskiy Boulevard was fired on from a grenade launcher. As your SEGODNYA correspondent who visited the scene managed to find out, the shot was fired from an RPG-18 Mukha single-use grenade launcher with an armor-piercing high explosive grenade. [passage omitted]

Yesterday evening representatives of Russian law-enforcement agencies were in no hurry to comment on the incident. Official sources only reported measures to beef up security at diplomatic missions in Russian cities. Experts believe that either the shot was not aimed at a particular part of the building or was made by a professional toward the windows on the fifth floor where, according to informal sources, the embassy telecommunications center, communications, and encoding rooms are located, which makes this floor the most secret in that building. Considering the Mukha's technical characteristics, the specifics of the terrain, and the situation, experts think the hit was quite accurate.

U.S. Embassy representatives in Moscow yesterday said there had been no warnings or threats recently. They expressed satisfaction with the work of Russian law-enforcement officers involved in the on-the-spot investigation. Embassy staffers declined to comment on the political aspects of the incident. By yesterday evening no organization had claimed responsibility for the shelling.

Security Forces on Alert

LD1309202395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1957 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 13 (Interfax) — The Moscow law enforcers were put on alert in the wake of a grenade attack on the U.S. embassy Wednesday afternoon according to the Sirena plan, a high-ranking security officer told Interfax.

The officer said the Sirena plan enabled law enforcers to stop any vehicle and enter any premises.

Commenting on the incident, the officer noted: "Such things are not a joke. This is an international-scale terrorist act."

The Sirena plan had last been activated in October 1993 when the White House of Russia was stormed.

The officer said "enormous forces" had joined the search for the attacker.

"There is already a composite sketch of the terrorist. He is a young man under 30, Caucasian, taller than average. He was wearing a light jeans suit," he added.

Attack Linked to NATO Balkan Policy

MK1409093195 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 14 Sep 95 p 1

[Political Department report: "Stray Grenades From the Balkans Already Reach Moscow"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The crux of what happened on Novinskiy Boulevard yesterday fits perfectly well within the lines of a dry report: At 1630 the U.S. Embassy was fired upon from a grenade launcher. The building suffered insignificant damage. No casualties were reported and personnel were evacuated. The laconic report, however, brings to mind reflections of universal dimensions. At least there have been no analogues to the incident in the history of relations between Russia and the United States. But there are such analogues in world history. At a time when Moscow has deliberately ventured an unprecedented worsening of relations with the West over the Balkan issue, a formula that has already been played out in history more than once comes to mind again: Yet another Balkan crisis plus a provocation — this is the path to that very border beyond which the irrational begins.

Your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent made contact with the U.S. Embassy in Moscow a few minutes after the incident. The duty officer's comments were confusing: "To all appearances, a bomb went off at the information center; we are at another building. Everyone is being urgently evacuated." A marine who happened to be nearby added after a moment's pause: "There are no casualties." Accurate information — the embassy's urgent statement — came to KOMMERSANT-DAILY a bit later. Bill Clinton learned of the incident precisely from that text at 0915 Washington time. The essence of the statement is as follows. The U.S. Embassy was fired upon from a shoulder-fired grenade launcher at 1625. The grenade hit the wall a few centimeters from a sixth-story window. No one was hurt, because the grenade, having punched a hole in the wall, struck a copying machine. Russian special services also informed the embassy of a grenade launcher, gloves, a black mask covering the whole face, and a brown paper package, in which the weapon appears to have been transported. No one has been detained. The U.S. Embassy's statement indicated that no warning calls had been made and that no one has claimed responsibility for the incident. As a matter of fact, this practice is honored by Russian mobsters.

So, terrorism with an international bottom line has arrived in Moscow. Who is the perpetrator? One can offer a number of theories, nearly all of which boil down to one thing: the Balkans. To all appearances, the theory of revenge-seekers who were refused a visa will not pass — this was too professional and politically well-calculated an act. This was done precisely on the eve of U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott's Moscow visit, the main mission of which will be to try to assuage a Moscow angered by NATO's actions in the former Yugoslavia. Who stands to benefit from preventing this from happening? The Serbs? Partly so. But the Serbs cannot but realize that betting it all on a weakened Russia alone would be too unwise. The Muslims? Also partly. Presently Russia is still a player in the Balkans, even if not the strongest one. At the same time, it would be difficult to infuriate it more than NATO and the UN did by setting it up there. The Russian special services and circles interested in having Moscow's anti-Western stance tightened even further? There is logic in this theory as well. The power agencies of all countries are always better off when they have an external enemy. But here, too, a note of caution is needed: The special services of all countries are characterized by circumspection; moreover, in this particular case precisely they would be blamed for failing to notice a person with a grenade launcher in the heart of Moscow. The easiest way would be to blame everything on a "patriot of red and brown hues" who went crazy over the idea of pan-Slavic brotherhood. But in the end what matters is not who was shooting or who directed the terrorist's hand. The issue is how this incident will be perceived by public opinion and used by politicians — both in Russia and in America.

Investigating Office Identified

LD1409104895 Moscow INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY in Russian 0955 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Neither the Moscow Internal Affairs Directorate nor the Federal Security Service will be engaged in the investigation into the attack on the U.S. Embassy on 13 September, sources in the Moscow Internal Affairs Directorate and the Federal Security Service told Moscow Echo Radio.

Moscow Echo Radio was told in the Moscow City Prosecutor's Office that the case is under its jurisdiction, but that the Moscow Presnya District Prosecutor's Office is dealing with it.

A criminal case has been opened under Article 213/3 of the Russian Federation Criminal Code — "Terrorism."

Protests Against 'Secret' NATO Memo Continue

ITAR-TASS Provides Extracts

LD1309161395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1440 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Belgrade, 13 Sep (ITAR-TASS) — The secret "memorandum on mutual understanding" signed on 10 August 1995 between General Bernard Janvier, commander of the UN forces in former Yugoslavia; and Vice Admiral Leighton Smith, commander in Chief of NATO allied forces in southern Europe, was the formal basis on which the North Atlantic alliance launched a large-scale military operation against the Bosnian Serbs. It emerges from the document, which was adopted bypassing the UN Security Council, that NATO forces were given the virtually unrestrained right to launch strikes against the Bosnian Serbs until the total destruction of the military potential of the Serbian side is achieved, even if the latter is not making any attempt to engage in combat.

The following are extracts from the said "memorandum on mutual understanding," the text of which ITAR-TASS has obtained.

From the section "Operational considerations:"

"Air operations will be carried out against ground targets located within the Combat Zone (CZ). The CZ should be sufficiently extensive for it to contain a sufficient number of stationary and mobile targets relative to creating the threat of an offensive or an actual offensive on the safe areas. The combat zones should not be a limiting factor, they should be sufficiently extensive to enable air operations of different scales to be carried out, without the need to hold further talks on extending the CZs.

"...Air operations will be carried out while there is still a need to render support in defending the safe areas within the framework of a more extensive geographical area, including operations against any troop concentration areas if, in the general opinion of the commander in chief of NATO allied forces southern Europe and the UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] commander, they constitute a serious danger to one or other of the safe areas."

The memorandum stresses that "actions to suppress and destroy air defense systems and early warning radar systems are not limited to the CZ." In particular, it points out that these actions may also be extended to the territory of Serbian Krajina in Croatia.

Among the targets against which operations may be commenced are "a concentration of troops or heavy weapons and other military preparations, which in the general opinion of the commander in chief allied forces southern Europe and the FC [Field Commander] UNPROFOR, constitute a direct threat to one or other of the safe areas."

The section on defining the list of targets states:

"For each safe area, the sides agree on a list of stationary targets. The list of mobile targets will be agreed in principle and will be clarified daily, while a final agreement will be made the day before the operations are carried out."

The document gives the following examples of various targets, both stationary and mobile, that may become the targets of the operations:

"Troops deployed in an area (including places of concentrations of troops).

"Command posts and administration premises.

"Means of communications in the rear.

"Facilities for providing direct backup and backup for military operations."

The section on the temporary and final cessation of the operations says:

"The air strikes will cease upon, according to the common judgment of CINCSOUTH and FC UNPROFOR, the cessation of attacks on any of the safe areas and elimination of the threat of attack against these areas...."

Moscow Demands Access to Memo

LD1309130295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1038 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 13 (Interfax) — Russia does not accept the refusal of the UN leadership to submit the text of a secret mutual-understanding memorandum on Bosnia between UN and NATO, a high-ranking Russian Foreign Ministry official told Interfax Wednesday.

He said a spokesman for the UN Secretary General accounted the refusal to the confidential nature of the document.

"Such a reply cannot satisfy the Russian side and we demand that we be shown the memorandum and that NATO military actions in Bosnia be stopped," the Russian diplomat stressed.

According to him, "Moscow proceeds from the assumption that every UN Security Council member, especially a permanent one like Russia, should be aware of the content of all documents directly related to key questions of peace and security."

According to media reports, the UN-NATO memorandum, not shown to two Security Council members, Russia and China, formed the foundation for a military operation now conducted by NATO and the Rapid Reaction Force in Bosnia.

Commenting on the latest NATO actions in Bosnia and the shelling of Bosnian Serbs by Tomahawk sea-based cruise missiles, the ministry official said that the use of naval force clearly exceeds the Security Council mandate which permitted only the use of air strikes.

"However, even NATO aviation actions go far beyond the mandate," the diplomat said.

According to him, initially the Security Council permitted the use of NATO aviation for protecting "safe havens" and the UN personnel in the event of direct threat to its security.

"There is no longer any need for either," the diplomat remarked.

Kozyrev: Russia Not Notified

LD1309183495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1752 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 13 (Interfax) — Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on Wednesday condemned a secret U.N.-NATO memorandum, which, according to some sources, underlies the North Atlantic alliance's current military operation in Bosnia.

Kozyrev told reporters after meeting his Belarusian counterpart, Vladimir Senko, that permanent U.N. security Council members Russia and China and some of its other members had not been notified of the memorandum's existence.

Moscow will insist on investigating the matter, he said.

Karasin Condemns 'Outrageous' Document

MM1309185795 Moscow TRUD in Russian 14 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Erik Alekseyev under general headline "Most Powerful NATO Strike Against Serbs. Meanwhile Muslims and Croats Are Mounting Broad Offensive:" "Everything Has Been Concealed From Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In connection with reports appearing about the existence of a secret "Memorandum of Mutual Understanding" between the United Nations and NATO, in accordance with which NATO is essentially given a free hand in Bosnia, your TRUD correspondent, Erik Alekseyev, asked Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry Information and Press Department, to clarify, for the newspaper's readers, the attitude of the Russian Foreign Ministry toward this astonishing document. This is what Grigoriy Karasin said:

I would start with the fact that the existence of any document of this sort, particularly one on an acute political issue, is an outrageous and unprecedented fact. This is impermissible in principle. The point is that the United Nations is an organization of states, and all decisions issuing from the UN Secretariat are supposed to reflect the opinions of the member states. You get the impression that the Secretariat and other UN structures have forgotten that they are the auxiliary structure of the United Nations, while the main UN roles are played by the member states. Therefore any "closed" or "secret" documents should be completely eliminated from UN practice. Otherwise the very idea of this organization will be undermined.

As far as a closed, secret memorandum is concerned, all the aforesaid fully applies to this document. Russia knew nothing about this document; we were not informed either of the fact of the elaboration of such a document or, even less so, of its content. Even now we have no official information regarding the memorandum. Sergey Lavrov, Russian representative at the United Nations, has raised this acute issue at the Security Council. Unfortunately, the response we have received as of today is not to our satisfaction. And by and large, the whole situation that has taken shape around this document, whereby the Security Council, including Russia, has been virtually excluded from making decisions on questions of upholding international peace, is absolutely unacceptable. We have repeatedly pointed out and continue to state that the present NATO action goes far beyond the framework outlined by UN Security Council decisions.

In a word, we will endeavor to obtain full explanations on this whole matter from UN Secretariat officials.

Lavrov: 'Direct Breach' of Resolutions

LD1309174295 Moscow INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY in Russian 1600 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The memorandum between the United Nations and NATO, which the Russian Foreign Ministry expressed concern over on 12 September, does indeed exist, Sergey Lavrov, Russia's representative in the UN Security Council, told the Moscow Echo radio station. According to the Russian diplomat, the UN Secretariat has admitted this, but the contents of the document as yet remain secret, since the secretariat considers this to be a confidential bilateral document.

"According to the information we have managed to obtain through diplomatic channels," Lavrov said, "the memorandum contains an accord, whereby the UN has in effect handed over its second key and now cannot itself, as was the case up to now, stop the use of force if NATO does not want this."

"We have grounds for suspecting," Lavrov commented, "that in this same memorandum are enshrined the principles of conducting operations encompassing not only virtually the whole territory of Bosnia, but also the territory of neighboring states, namely Serb-occupied neighboring countries."

"This is a direct breach of the resolutions which permit the limited proportionate use of force exclusively in Bosnia, exclusively for the defense of UN personnel and the security zones," Lavrov said.

"It is with concern and puzzlement that we have heard that this memorandum allegedly contains things which by no means demand that the Serbs should start shooting," Lavrov told Moscow Echo radio.

Clinton Disagrees With Moscow Over Bosnia 'Genocide'

MM1309173195 Moscow TRUD in Russian 14 Sep 95 p 1

[Unattributed report under general headline "Most Powerful NATO Strike Against Serbs. Meanwhile Muslims and Croats Are Mounting Broad Offensive:" "Are the Differences with the United States 'Tactical?'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton expressed his disagreement with the description given by the Russian Government to the actions of the NATO forces in Bosnia as "genocide" against the Bosnian Serbs. During a news conference in the White House reporters asked him what lies behind Russia's unbending position on the NATO bombings. "I think it would be best to ask them about this," the head of the White House said. "Looking at the facts," he continued, "it is perfectly clear that the bombard[illegible] cannot be called genocide."

"There are tactical differences" in the attitude of the United States and Russia toward the question of the NATO air strikes against Bosnian Serb positions, but these differences will not affect the development of relations between the two countries in the long term. This point of view was expressed by Nicholas Burns, U.S. State Department spokesman, at a meeting with journalists.

Kinkel Concerned Over Russian Statements on Bosnia

LD1309144295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1433 GMT 13 Sep 95

[By Gennadiy Temnenkov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BONN, September 13 (Itar-Tass) — German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel on Wednesday expressed "concern" over Russia's firm statements on NATO actions in Bosnia. Speaking on the telephone to his Russian counterpart, he reassured Andrey Kozyrev that Germany emphasised Russia's involvement in the Bosnian peace process.

Russia's first deputy foreign minister Igor Ivanov will come to Germany on Friday, Kinkel said.

Kinkel protested a Russian claim that NATO bombings could lead to genocide against Bosnian Serbs. "Such term is completely unacceptable," he said. NATO only responds to the Serb aggression, he noted adding that Serb claims about "heavy" losses among civilians could not be verified.

Kinkel said that Russia had been invited to the development of all U.N. and NATO decisions on the use of force in Bosnia. He refuted the alleged existence of any secret agreement between the United Nations and NATO which would aim to escalate the conflict.

What was going on was rather an implementation of decisions taken by a recent London meeting of Contact Group ministers which also involved top-ranking politicians and the military from Russia, Kinkel said.

It was Germany which backed the idea of holding the next Contact Group meeting in Moscow next week, the German foreign minister said. He also noted that the West was interested in Russia's presence within this body as it so far was "on the whole" a constructive partner.

Germany feels special responsibility for Russia's being provided an adequate place in the common European security architecture, the minister stressed. "One should not permit that all which have been achieved so far was put at stake. The situation is too unstable to permit a new confrontation," he said.

However, the fact that the West is prepared for cooperation in no way means that they would "keep silence in response to unjustified reproaches." Moscow should refuse from the "language of confrontation," the German minister said.

UN Delegate on Bosnian Offensive, Russian Resolution

LD1409071995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0656 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Boris Sitnikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] UNITED NATIONS, September 14 (Itar- Tass) — "The Moslem-Croatian offensive in Bosnia confirms Russia's stand that the unilateral ultimatum to Bosnian Serbs on a withdrawal of their heavy weapons from the Sarajevo area as a condition for stopping NATO air raids is utterly unrealistic and unjust," Russian chief delegate to the U.N. Sergey Lavrov said in an interview with Itar-Tass after consultations at the council on Wednesday.

"During the discussion of the Russian draft resolution on Bosnia, held today, we called attention to the latest, extremely disquieting reports, confirmed by the U.N. Secretariat, that the troops of the Bosnian government and the Bosnian-Croatian Federation continue their offensive on the positions of Bosnian Serbs, their towns and villages and already captured some of them.

"Incidentally, some 20,000 Serbs fled their homes and turned into displaced persons and, possibly, into refugees who will leave Bosnia," Lavrov stressed.

According to the chief delegate, it is evident that the Bosnian government hopes to use the continued air raids on Serbs to strengthen its military positions, which proves that the unilateral ultimatum will not settle the crisis.

"Therefore, we urgently convened the Contact Group so that it would initiate a statement at the Security Council, which would warn of inadmissibility of such offensive operations and of the need for the two sides to stop combat operations," Lavrov said.

"This text of the Contact Group, although in a somewhat weakend form, as compared with our inital draft, was submitted. It is very important that the statement was made by the Contact Group."

Turning to the fate of the draft resolution on an immediate end to NATO air raids, submitted by Russia, Lavrov noted that if the statement does not stop the Moslem-Croatian offensive and is not used to put pressure on both sides in the conflict, "we shall continue the discussion of the Russian draft resolution".

UN Said Losing Control in Bosnia to NATO

MM1409084695 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 14 Sep 95 p 3

[Report by Yuriy Popov: "UN a Convenient Screen for NATO?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The war against the Serbs, and there is no other name for NATO's recent actions in Bosnia, is becoming not just brutal, but also scandalous. The ITAR-TASS news agency has obtained a copy of a secret memorandum between the NATO command in the Southern Europe theater and the UN forces in the former Yugoslavia from which it is clear that the military on the two sides have decided to agree between themselves in their characteristic way how best to pacify the recalcitrant Serbs. With a typical general's bluntness it was agreed that they would batter them from the air until the Serbs' entire military potential is finally destroyed. And furthermore that they would destroy it even if the Serbian Army does not attempt to wage combat actions. The memorandum was signed 20 days before the beginning of the current NATO air raids which have been going on almost two weeks now.

As a diversionary tactic the five-page agreement [dogovor] speaks of the need to protect the four UN safe areas from danger. In fact what has been agreed is that these areas can be "protected" even if they are not subjected to direct attacks but if there is merely...the threat of attack. In other words, if the Serbs so much as stir anywhere in Bosnia even a long way off, hundreds of kilometers from the UN zones, there could be missiles, shelling, and 1,000-kg bombs: The simplest option of all is to interpret any even remotely perceptible movement as an intention to attack. All that is missing is a picture of the dangerous mentality of this or that Serbian figure....

Of course, this is not the official presentation of a document by, for example, the UN Secretariat. But I personally trust ITAR-TASS because I know from experience that there are trustworthy people working there. Furthermore, NATO's actual operations fully confirm what this scandalous piece of paper says.

In fact the NATO military greeted with the cold-bloodedness of a butcher the Bosnian Serbs' indignation at the continuing destruction of their industrial facilities and declared ominously that if Radovan Karadzic withdraws from the peace talks they will resort to "Option 3" — that is, they will switch to all-out missile and bomb strikes across the whole of Serbian territory. There is no mention of UN areas here. According to NATO Secretary General Willy Claes, the peace process cannot be wrecked by bombs. On the contrary, the more intensive the bombing and the less discriminating the choice of targets become the faster the peace talks will progress. In short, the most powerful argument in a dispute is brute force. The North Atlantic bloc will continue supporting the "contact group's" peacekeeping efforts, W. Claes stated without batting an eyelid. There you have it.

The situation in and around Bosnia seems increasingly to be slipping out of the control of the United Nations which is being used simply as a screen by the NATO military and the United States. If events continue developing in this direction, the UN peacekeeping mission will cease to exist. And the next time there is an attempt to invoke such a mission people's reaction to it may be not one of sympathy but of fear.

Defense Ministry: NATO Air Attacks Paralyzing Bosnia

LD1309123895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1038 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 13 (Interfax) — NATO air attacks can paralyze the military as well as economic potential of the Bosnian Serbs, a high-ranking Russian Defense Ministry spokesman told Interfax Wednesday.

According to him, the NATO military have intelligence information about the key Bosnian Serb military facilities and life-support systems.

"If NATO continues mass air attacks, considerable damage will be done to that part of Bosnia. Only a small portion of military hardware can be moved and hidden, but not major stores of ammunition or defense plants", the official said.

The ministry spokesman said NATO planes act with absolute impunity because Bosnian Serbs do not have the air defense equipment to adequately respond to the attacks. He said this would require modern anti-aircraft rocket launchers and fighter planes.

The Russian official ruled out any possibility of Bosnian Serbs purchasing such powerful air defense instruments.

"Even if some country decides to supply Bosnian Serbs with modern antiaircraft rocket launchers, NATO will not permit that. The weapons could not be delivered by air, sea or any land transport — they would be destroyed by NATO," the ministry spokesman said.

He announced that NATO planes have made about 2600 combat flights to attack Bosnian Serbs and claimed that NATO continues to step up the number of planes used in the area. "Large-scale air attacks and bombing cause great destruction and also paralyze people by damaging their psyche," the spokesman stressed.

He said NATO is willing to destroy the military potential of the Bosnian Serbs and "bring them to their knees" as soon as possible. According to the officer, the weather in the area is good, permitting high precision air attacks.

He said the good weather would last for about a month. "Later it will be very difficult to deliver high precision air attacks, which will mean enormous civilian casualties," the official remarked.

Commenting on NATO actions in Bosnia he said that any war, big or small, allows to test the latest armaments in action. However, he added that "the means of destruction and tactics used by the NATO military are already known."

Kozyrev Explains Yeltsin Warning About Military Bloc

LD1309142395 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1300 GMT 13 Sep 95

[Video report by correspondent D. Pugacheva; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Russian and Belarusian foreign ministers discussed the Bosnian problem and general issues of setting up a collective security system in Europe during their meeting. The essence of military-political cooperation between the CIS countries, irrespective of whether they are in the collective security council or not, is in settling military tasks for the sake of peace, Andrey Kozyrev said after the meeting. He explained that President Yeltsin's recent statement on setting up a military bloc of the CIS countries was not a call for confrontation, but a warning.

[Begin Kozyrev recording] If events, the development of events in Europe, and other forces push in one direction, in the direction of new separation lines, in the direction of closed military-political groups of some kind, the situation may arise in which interbloc confrontation could be restored. This is by no means our aim or our choice. This is a warning of a danger. [end recording] [passage omitted]

And one more question was addressed to Andrey Kozyrev, on secret agreements between the United Nations and NATO. It is thought that the memorandum determined military action in Bosnia.

[Begin Kozyrev recording] I think that we are talking here about a serious fault in the work of the United Nations. We, of course, will seek a clear answer and also seek a situation which would exclude such things in the future. The United Nations is not some kind of a secret club. In any case, it cannot be secret for the members of this organization, especially its permanent members, such as Russia. [end recording] [video shows Kozyrev-Senko talks, news conference in progress, and Kozyrev being interviewed in room standing near the door]

Urges Avoiding 'Cold Peace'

LD1309151095 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 13 Sep 95

[Video report by correspondent Mikhail Zotov with announcer's introduction; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Foreign Ministry is engaged in intensive consultations with the CIS in order to set up a collective security system. The situation in the former Yugoslavia is being taken into account here.

[Zotov] [Words indistinct] which Presidents Yeltsin and Lukashenka agreed on in Minsk recently is assuming tangible dimensions. Russian diplomats say that this has begun to worry some circles in the West.

This is why Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev explained Russia's position at a meeting today with Vladimir Senko, his Belarusian counterpart.

According to Kozyrev, it is not Russia's intention to create a military bloc, which would oppose the world around it.

[Begin Kozyrev recording] What a striking thing! The West is beating its breast and saying it wants to put a halt to the confrontation between the former Yugoslav republics, but at the same time, forces can be found there opposing the integration and cooperation between the former Soviet republics. Where is the logic here? It is precisely the existence of the CIS, the existence of the closest ties which will become closer still between, say, Russia and Belarusia, that constitutes a contribution to general security. [end recording]

At the same time Andrey Kozyrev said that if the development of events in Europe pushes the world in the direction of closed military-political groups, confrontation between blocs can surface again. However, such a situation, already nicknamed cold peace, is not Russia's choice.

[Begin Kozyrev recording] NATO — to say nothing of its hasty expansion — is altogether no answer to the needs of today. In today's world we must depart from military thinking. We will proceed not along a path of military confrontation, but along a path of building universal and comprehensive security. [end recording]

Replying to questions from Western journalists, Kozyrev said Russia is resolutely opposed to NATO bombing raids against the Bosnian Serbs and that these raids will never lead to positive results. At the same time, Russia is open to cooperation with the West in other areas.

NATO Operation Against Serbs 'Act of Vengeance'

LD1309134395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1318 GMT 13 Sep 95

[By Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, September 13 (Itar-Tass) — "NATO's military operation against the Serbs might be described as an act of vengeance towards one of the warring sides involved in the conflict," said prominent human rights activist Sergey Kovalev at a news conference held in the State Duma today. "The world community should not act as a judge, but it is its business to put an end to the war," Kovalev said.

He expressed the opinion that Russia and the West should again coordinate their positions as regards the conflict in the Balkans, saying that otherwise, it would be impossible to reach peace in this region. "Both Russia and the West should exercise maximum influence on the warring sides to help them extinguish the fire of the war," Kovalev said.

Another speaker at a news conference, lawmaker Sergey Yushenkov, said that the "nationalist and communist forces representing former regimes in former Yugoslavia seek to take advantage of the conflict to attain their goals. Certain political forces in Russia, who adhere to the military way of Balkan settlement, are increasing the chances of revanchist forces to come into power, which is fraught with a return to the cold war and confrontation between Russia and the West."

Both lawmakers came out against Russia's unilateral withdrawal from economic sanctions against Yugoslavia and imposing these sanctions on Croatia. The lawmakers believe that this should be done in the framework of the world community. Kovalev and Yushenkov have called on all democratic forces to unite in order to influence the process of cessation of NATO's bombardments in the Balkans.

Commenting on a resolution adopted by the State Duma to send a mission of observers to the Balkans, Kovalev said that the stance taken by the lower chamber of the parliament cannot be assessed as objective and well-balanced. "The Duma might only stir up the fire," Kovalev said.

Ivanov Urges Priority Cessation of NATO Attacks

LD1309131495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1230 GMT 13 Sep 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Zagreb, 13 Sep (ITAR-TASS) — Russian diplomacy believes that the cessation of the NATO air strikes in Bosnia is an absolute political priority. First Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, who is in Zagreb on a brief working visit, said in an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS: "If the air strikes are not stopped, all efforts which are currently being exerted to achieve a political settlement may be wiped out.

"A formula should be found to make it possible to urgently stop the bombardment of the Bosnian Serbs. I said the same today to Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and international mediator Carl Bildt, and I will repeat it at my talks with UN envoy Yasushi Akashi and UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] Commander Bernard Janvier," Ivanov said.

NATO 'Genocide' in Bosnia May Revive Cold War

MM1209125095 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Sep 95 p 3

[Article by Mikhail Pogorelyy of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA: "Idea of 'Humanitarian War' Is Unrealistic. But Danger of 'Cold War' Is Real"]

[FBIS Translated Text] So NATO has been waging war in the Balkans for over a week now. The coalition of 16 states is fighting a war not even against a country, but against a small people living on the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The name for which in international practice is genocide.... Let nobody be misled by the talk of "air strikes" and "surgically precise" missile launches and bombing. The NATO aircraft's operations are being supported on the ground by an expeditionary corps of the bloc's rapid reaction forces. The navy is now starting to take a full part in the war — not only as the launchpad for carrier-based fighter-bombers but also as a direct strike force employing "Tomahawk" cruise missiles against Serbian positions.

However, the use of laser-guided missiles, space reconnaissance and communications systems, long-range radar, and airborne command posts by no means makes what is happening on the soil of the former Yugoslavia a "humanitarian war" (as the leaders of the North Atlantic bloc would like to call the present combat operations) with the task of destroying only military targets — Bosnian Serb air defense positions, arms and ammunition dumps, command posts, and communications centers. Indeed, regardless of the wishes of NATO military leaders and political leaders, people are inevitably dying in the course of the combat operations, most of them civilians whose only "crime" is to have Serb, Slav blood in their veins....

In this connection the German newspaper HAMBURGER ABENDBLATT admits that the idea of "humanitarian warfare" is unrealistic. But the point is not even that peaceful civilians and sick and wounded people in hospitals and clinics are falling victim to the NATO forces' bombing raids and bombardments. The idea of "humanitarian warfare" is unrealistic in that it is fundamentally incapable of leading to peace in Bosnia and reconciling the warring sides. This can be achieved only at the negotiating table — and this is precisely the course that Russia is persistently advocating.

The West's chosen option of the forcible solution of the Yugoslav crisis is not bringing a real settlement any near but, on the contrary, is still further exacerbating the situation since it is frankly leaving Russia on the margins of the process. And this is fraught with far more serious consequences for European and world security even than the prospect of an endlessly protracted crisis in and around Bosnia. The attempts to reduce everything to an American-style "cozy party" without taking account of Moscow's opinions is eliciting among Russians doubts regarding the sincerity of those who call themselves "partners" yet in their actions are guided only by their own interests, assessments, and opinions.

The duplicity of the NATO approach — proclaiming the principles of cooperation and mutual consideration of one another's interests yet at the same time actually acting in a crisis exclusively as it sees fit — is forcing Russia to question the prospects of "Partnership for Peace." If our country's position is being ignored today, when it is not a question of a direct clash between the economic, military, and political interests of Russia and the West, it is easy to imagine the extent to which we will be heeded when Russian industry, say, becomes an appreciable competitor to U.S., German, or French corporations or when the Russian military- industrial complex definitely "treads on the toes" of colleagues from the NATO countries.

Having assumed a "peacemaking" mission off its own bat, without any real approval for this from the United Nations, NATO has clearly got the bit between its teeth. In the very near future, WELT AM SONNTAG reports, citing NATO sources, the North Atlantic alliance intends to increase the size of its peacekeeping contingent in Bosnia to 50,000 men. They are no longer mentioning UN mandates and powers, acting on the basis of their own plans. And showing no interest in the opinion of their "partners." So it is worth listening to those politicians both in Russia and in the West who are sounding the alarm about a possible revival of "cold war" — after all, it began 50 years ago with the interests of one group of states being pitted against the interests and security of others.

Ivanov: Russia To Continue Within Contact Group

LD1309205995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2047 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Konstantin Pribytkov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GENEVA, September 14 (Itar-Tass) — Russia's sharp criticism of NATO air strikes against the Bosnian Serbs does not mean that it intends to withdraw from the five-nation Contact Group, First Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said on Wednesday.

In an interview with Itar-Tass upon his arrival in Geneva for a Contact Group meeting to open on Thursday, Ivanov said he "does not see at this point any danger" of a split in the Contact Group. "Russia intends to continue to actively cooperate within the framework of the Contact Group and its latest decisions have shown its effectiveness," he added.

He said that the upcoming meeting to be held at the Russian Embassy will provide an opportunity for the Contact Group which includes Russia, the United States, Germany, Britain and France to discuss "the entire spectrum of issues as a follow up on the agreements" reached in Geneva last Friday.

Ivanov stressed that the problem of air strikes cannot be tacitly ignored because if they continue "all talks may become pointless." "It is hard to talk about practical issues to the accompaniment of air strikes," he said.

"I've got the impression that the understanding of the situation is growing, including not without the influence of the principled and tough position of Russia," he said.

OIC Not Ruling Out Arms Supply to Bosnian Government

LD1309135995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1333 GMT 13 Sep 95

[By Stanislav Bychkov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SINGAPORE, September 13 (Itar-Tass) — The senior officials and military leaders of thirteen countries, affiliated to the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), who are currently discussing the Bosnia and Herzegovina problem at Kuala Lumpur, do not rule out the possibility of supplying weapons to the Bosnian government. As learned here today, this information was divulged in the Malaysian capital on Tuesday, after the second day of the 13-nation consultations, by Secretary-General of the Malaysian Foreign Ministry Ahmad Kamil Jafar.

The meeting is being attended by representatives from Bangladesh, Indonesia and Jordan, whose troops have been included in the UNPROFOR contingent in Bosnia, and also from Egypt, Iran, Malaysia, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Pakistan and Turkey, which are members of the OIC "Contact Group". Present also are observers from Qatar, representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina and from Croatia.

Itar-Tass has learned from a Malaysian diplomat in Kuala Lumpur today that all the participants of the meeting "share the view that the Bosnian Serbs must pay a higher price" than the present NATO air strikes if "they do not agree to peace talks". The OIC, he said, will in this case call for "even tougher measures". He did not rule out the "supply of weapons" to the Sarajevo government. The OIC, which unites 25 Moslem states, unilaterally declared "null and void" in July the international embargo on arms deliveris to Bosnia.

On Thursday the consultations will be continued in the form of a 13-nation meeting at the level of the foreign and defence ministers.

Duma Official Criticizes German Air Force in Bosnia

LD1309223795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1402 GMT 13 Sep 95

[By ITAR-TASS observer Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow, 13 Sep (ITAR-TASS) — The participation of Bundeswehr [German Armed Forces] aircraft in NATO's air operation "Deliberate Force" in the Balkans exceeds the mandate of the United Nations Security Council and the decisions of the German Bundestag, Major-General of Aviation Nikolay Bezborodov, deputy chairman of Russia's State Duma Defense Committee, thinks. In an exclusive interview given to the ITAR-TASS correspondent today, he said that the destruction of radar systems and the bombing of Serb positions runs counter to the decision of the Bundestag to use German Air Force aircraft only in the case of the withdrawal of UN forces from the republics of the former Yugoslavia or attacks on the Rapid Reaction Force.

Meanwhile, he said that crews of the German Tornado multipurpose aircraft at first carried out intelligence tasks and later were used for inflicting missile and bomb strikes against Serb ground installations. [passage omitted]

Six German "Tornado" squadrons, equipped with American "Lantern", systems of laser bomb-guidance, will join the German Armed Forces crisis reaction forces. At present, the crews are undergoing active training in the Balkans as part of the first echelon of NATO's strike forces.

The participation of the German "Tornados" outside the Sarajevo security and protection zones also casts doubt on whether the Germans are fulfilling the United Nations Security Council mandate which has been given to the North Atlantic Organization. "The use of aircraft by NATO deep inside the territory of the warring sides aggravates tension and might have negative consequences for the whole of Europe, including for the country which has sent its "Tornados", in essence, to provide unilateral support for the warring sides and to test the combat abilities of its aircraft," Bezborodov considers.

Israeli, Iranian Envoys Comment on Nuclear Deal

MK1309152595 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 61, 10-17 Sep 95 p 7

[Interview with Ms. Aliza Shenar, Israeli ambassador to Moscow, by Leonid Gankin under the "Details" rubric: "Why Is Rabin Coming to Moscow?" — followed by interview with Mr. Mehdi Safari, Iranian ambassador to Moscow, by Sergey Strokan: "Why Does Iran Need Nuclear Power Stations" — first passage is MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] After Yitzhak Rabin's official visit to Kiev, the Israeli prime minister will pay a one-day visit to Moscow on 14 September. According to official information, he plans to discuss the peace process in the Middle East. However, as our own correspondent in Tel Aviv Vladimir Polyak managed to learn, diplomats at the Israeli Foreign Ministry expect that particular attention will be paid during the talks to Moscow's nuclear deal with Iran. The Israeli press is actively commenting on Viktor Chernomyrdin's message to Prime Minister Rabin, which says that the delivery of reactors to Iran will not harm Israeli security. They take issue with this view in Israel. The Israelis are extremely worried by the recent visit of the Russian Atomic Energy Ministry's delegation to Tehran, where the question of expanding the deal was discussed. Directing his steps to Moscow, Rabin wants to spell out Israel's stance on the issue in detail and to attempt, in particular, to obtain a list of equipment which is planned to be supplied to Iran. Our correspondents turned to the embassies of the interested countries.

[Gankin) What questions will be discussed during the talks?

[Shenar] In April 1994, our premier signed a whole range of agreements concerning the development of Israeli-Russian ties. In the current talks with Viktor Chernomyrdin various aspects of their realization will be touched upon.

An important and painful subject for us is the expected sale of nuclear reactors to Iran. Currently it is even unclear how many reactors are at issue. The Russian atomic energy minister tried to convince me last week that this will not pose a threat to Israeli security. We hold a different view, however. How can we disregard the Iranian threat if Tehran says bluntly that our state does not have the right to exist?

[Gankin) Are you sure that the Iranians are going to use the enriched uranium for military purposes?

[Shenar] For what other purposes can it be used? Iran is rich in oil, which fully satisfies its energy requirements. Creating a nuclear power industry in present-day conditions would be an unaffordable luxury for it. Besides, why do the Iranian authorities refuse to provide any information on their plans whatsoever? Why shouldn't they declassify their nuclear program, at least in order to calm world public opinion and not to let the deal fall through?

[Gankin) But you are perfectly aware of the situation in Russia. Reactors are among the little we can sell.

[Shenar] But why are you so certain that Iran will pay you for the reactors? According to our specialists, it does not have such money. In addition, peace and security cannot be measured in money. I have many friends in Moscow — they are scientists, literary persons, journalists. I have asked them the following question: Would they feel comfortable if they lived next door to a nuclear Iran? They admitted that they have never thought about it. But they should. The Iranian regime is unpredictable; it cannot be trusted in anything.

[Gankin) Are there plans to discuss the Middle East settlement?

[Shenar] Of course. Rabin is going to brief Chernomyrdin on the progress of the peace process. Talks with the Palestinians are proceeding smoothly and the conclusion of yet another agreement with them is just a matter of time. As for the stance of Damascus, however, we suspect that the Syrian leadership is not ready for a serious dialogue. The level of Syria's representation in the talks is not sufficiently high, while President al-Asad does not want to meet with Rabin for some reason. In that regard we count heavily on the assistance of the Russian side, which has contacts with the Syrian president. We hope that Russia, as a co-founder of the peace process in the Middle East, will help us find a common language.

As regards work done by the Russian Foreign Ministry, you will not read about it in the newspapers. Your diplomats switch into action before formal contacts begin, helping to straighten out differences and to bring the two sides' stances closer together. This is difficult, nitty-gritty work, but without it the peace process in the Middle East would have hardly been possible. [end of Shenar interview]

[Beginning of Safari interview]

[Strokan] The "Iranian subject" dominated the meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton in Moscow last May; it is expected to be a focal point of the upcoming talks between the Russian and Israeli prime ministers. Both Washington and Tel Aviv are trying to talk Moscow out of nuclear cooperation with Tehran, seeing it as a threat to peace. How are these apprehensions justified?

[Safari] If we say that Russia and Iran are independent states, they ought to decide on their own which cooperation to pursue. As for apprehensions that Iran wants to obtain nuclear arms, I can say that we do not need these weapons. It is not by chance that our president, Ali Hashemi-Rafsanjani, said in an interview for the CNN that Iran has an aversion to nuclear arms. As regards Iranian nuclear programs, the only thing we need to finish is the Bushehr nuclear power station, nothing else; the rest is speculation.

[Strokan] Opponents of the Russian-Iranian contract for finishing the construction of the Bushehr nuclear power station assert that oil-rich Iran does not need to develop a nuclear power industry...

[Safari] The United States and Russia, too, have vast oil reserves, which did not prevent them from acquiring nuclear power stations.

Completion of the station in Bushehr is necessitated first of all by the fact that oil reserves are not limitless. Second, oil is a fairly hazardous fuel in environmental terms, while the availability of environmentally friendly fuel sources is an indicator of a country's development. Third, those who are at least somewhat aware of the present-day principles of energy planning must know that any country strives to achieve diversification of its sources of energy. Fourth, the construction of the Bushehr station began back in 1975, and we spent about $3.5 billion on it. It would have been extremely wasteful to give up this unfinished construction project as lost.

[Strokan] It is said that Russia may encounter the problem of payments for the contract by the Iranian side, which is going through serious economic difficulties.

[Safari] Iran is not a rich country, but there is enough money to pay off the debt for the Bushehr contract. I am saying this with the utmost certainty.

Kozyrev Receives Israeli Prime Minister For Talks

LD1409084095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0805 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Valeriy Sevryukov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, September 14 (Itar-Tass) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who arrived for a brief working visit to Moscow late on Wednesday, began his working day on Thursday in the Russian Foreign Ministry building in Smolenskaya Square.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev greeted the Israeli leader on behalf of the President of the Russian Federation who is now on a vacation in the South of Russia. According to Kozyrev, Boris Yeltsin "attaches an important significance to this visit, brief as it is, because it is very needful for the successful development of bilateral relations."

Andrey Kozyrev on behalf of Boris Yeltsin expressed the hope that the visit "will help impart an additional impulse to our relations which are based on a solid foundation and Russia's co-sponsorship of the Middle East settlement."

After talks with the Russian foreign minister Yitzhaq Rabin is due to meet Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Defence Minister Pavel Grachev. He is due to sum the results of his talks in Moscow at a press conference in the evening.

Militants To Protest Visit

LD1409094595 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0800 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is holding official talks with Russian leaders in Moscow today. This morning he met with [Foreign Minister] Andrey Kozyrev. His meeting with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin is due any minute now.

The situation in the Near East and some bilateral problems are expected to be discussed at the talks. In particular, Rabin intends to raise the issue of deliveries of Russian nuclear reactors and nuclear fuel to Iran.

Yitzhaq Rabin's concluding news conference is due at the Russian Foreign Ministry's press center at Zubovskiy Boulevard at 1800.

Several radical groups plan to picket the press center building in protest against Rabin's visit.

According to Avigdor Atkin, one of the organizers, the picketing will not be a run-of-the-mill affair. Its participants plan to present the Israeli prime minister with a pig's head.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] We do not want Israel to turn into an Animal Farm, where terror is permissible, where Islamic fundamentalism becomes a significant factor, where all divisions between the Jewish state, which Israel should have become in keeping with the Declaration of Independence, and a state resembling Chechnya, for instance, are gradually being eroded. [end recording]

Kozyrev, Belarus Counterpart Hold Talks, View NATO

LD1309221595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1447 GMT 13 Sep 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Valeriy Sevryukov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 13 Sep (ITAR-TASS) — Belarus is counting on signing an interim agreement with the European Union "in the near future," the republic's foreign minister Uladzimir Syanko said today after his talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

Uladzimir Syanko said that Belarus maintains quite active contacts with the states of the Western hemisphere. However, he acknowledged that at present the republic is coming up against "a very restrained response" from its western partners as a consequence of the course adopted by its leadership of integrating with Russia. "However, I am convinced," the minister said, "that history will put everything in its place."

Continuing this theme, Andrey Kozyrev noted that the drawing closer together of Russia and Belarus, just like the integrational processes within the CIS as a whole, was a contribution to the stabilization of Europe and to the creation of total and universal security for the whole European continent. "It is striking," the Russian minister said, "that the West is saying it wants to put a halt to the confrontation in the former Yugoslav republics, but, at the same time, forces can be found there opposing integration and cooperation between the former Soviet republics. Where is the logic?"

It is precisely for this reason, Andrey Kozyrev considers, that the expansion of NATO "is no answer to the needs of today." He believes that today we must depart from a military way of thinking and change the emphasis onto the economic and social aspects. "A total and universal security system is not only and not so much military security but primarily economic and social security and the strengthening of democratic institutions," Andrey Kozyrev stressed.

View Western Stance on Integration

LD1309191095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1645 GMT 13 Sep 95

[By diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 13 (Interfax) — Belarusian Foreign Minister Uladzimir Hancharenka [name as received] said he believed that the West's reaction to the intention of Minsk and Moscow to broaden their cooperation was "rather reserved."

Hancharenka told a press conference on the results of his talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in Moscow today that "we will be patient and persistent to a necessary degree in waiting for appropriate response."

Kozyrev said he believed that such a reaction on the part of the West was "recurrence of confrontational thinking."

He said he saw no logic in the actions of Western countries which said they wanted to end confrontation between the republics of ex- Yugoslavia but also had forces speaking against cooperation between the former Soviet republics. "That's amazing," he said.

Kozyrev said cooperation between Russia and Belarus and integration within the CIS on the whole contributed to stability and security in entire Europe. "What would the West say if a situation similar to that in the Balkans evolved on the ex-USSR territory?" Kozyrev wondered.

Kozyrev, French Minister Discuss Bosnia on Phone

LD1309205595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1950 GMT 13 Sep 95

[By Mikhail Kalmykov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PARIS, September 13 (Itar-Tass) — French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette and his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev had a telephone conversation on Wednesday, the press service of the French Foreign Ministry said.

The two ministers discussed the situation in Bosnia where NATO continues air strikes on Bosnian Serb positions.

Earlier today, de Charette had a telephone talk with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to discuss the settlement of the Bosnian crisis ahead of a meeting of the international Contact Group on Bosnia in Geneva scheduled for Thursday.

Context, Aims of Talbott's Moscow Visit Examined

MM1309153395 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Sep 95 pp 1,3

[Report by Vladimir Nadein: "Clinton's Personal Envoy Hastens to Moscow"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington — U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott is arriving in Moscow for consultations [ugovory] not talks [peregovory]. NATO will not back down one inch in Bosnia and Talbott's mission is to explain why that is.

Talbott has the reputation of being a Yeltsinist. His reputation is either wrong or in any event out of date. Talbott is trying hard to get rid of it, but without particular success at the moment. In Washington they still blame him for everything that goes wrong in Russia.

Until recently those Washington politicians who value Russian-U.S. relations put Boris Yeltsin's harsh comments down to domestic needs. But matters have become more serious. The threats from Moscow have become increasingly harsh. NATO has been accused of genocide against the Serbs. The use of Tomahawk missiles, it is said, wrecked all chance of the success of the talks. And generally speaking, Europe, according to Yeltsin, is on the brink of war.

Meanwhile the West sees the picture differently. The demand to withdraw the heavy artillery and lift the blockade of Sarajevo is a UN decision adopted with Russia's agreement. The division of Bosnia into two ethnic autonomous units accords with the Contact Group's plan, which Russia, a prominent group member, actively supports. Many military installations have been destroyed by the use of electronic precision weapons but the civilian casualties have been relatively low. Serbian sources quote a figure of 10 people. UN observers have not yet confirmed that. They are waiting for an opportunity to go to the scene and see things with their own eyes.

In this connection, U.S. President Bill Clinton has parried the accusations of genocide against the Bosnian Serbs. "There has been no genocide there," he said Tuesday. "There was an extremely high level of caution and discipline there as well as firmness and force, and they were demonstrated in the appropriate manner."

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who has said himself that he studies fresh photographic evidence every morning, has come to the conclusion that "NATO has done everything possible to avoid civilian casualties."

The Pentagon's press spokesman has issued a statement that says the allies "are working very strenuously" to avoid losses among the civilian population. The Americans have excluded from the list of targets not only residential districts but also concentrations of Serb troops. Serbian Army personnel are not coming under attack. Clearly alluding to the Russian Air Force air raids in Chechnya, the Pentagon's man added that "other countries do not always use such a tactic."

There have been telephone calls between Russian Defense Minister P. Grachev and his U.S. counterpart W. Perry as a result of President Yeltsin's threat the day before to review relations with NATO. P. Grachev also said that Russia will possibly also repudiate either partially or fully a number of treaties already signed with the West.

After a series of rejections and postponements Russia signed the "Partnership for Peace" agreement on cooperation with NATO in May this year. But unlike a number of former Soviet republics, it has not taken part once in joint events. In the opinion of experienced Ukrainian officers the "partnership" exercises provide fundamentally new experience unknown to the former Soviet Army.

Russian Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev, replying to the president's criticism of him, has made an unusually sharp statement. He demanded that the West immediately cease military operations in Bosnia. He also accused NATO of turning Bosnia into a "proving ground" for world domination.

America believes that Moscow politicians are acting in their own petty short-term interests by placing the whole system of Russian participation in the world community in grave jeopardy. By resorting to strained interpretations and exaggerations typical of Cold War era propaganda, the top Moscow leadership is working itself up into a lather and is not entirely accurate in its assessment of Russia's real potential and national interests. Those same impulsive actions which turned the Chechen boil into a bleeding wound are now managing to destroy the delicate fabric of U.S.-Russian cooperation.

Is Moscow right to harbor a grudge against U.S. diplomacy? This is not a state problem. This is a question of wounded pride. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Holbrooke has achieved what President Yeltsin failed to do. Yeltsin was the first to invite the warring post-Yugoslav trio to visit him. But he received insulting rejections from two of the three presidents. Then a little later all three went to Geneva at Holbrooke's invitation.

In the opinion of local observers, the Moscow meeting had little appeal to the participants because the agenda was poorly prepared and because of Moscow's clearly pro-Serb position. President Yeltsin's prestige and personal influence were clearly overstated in the skyscraper on Smolensk Square.

U.S. Secretary of State Christopher, speaking in his usual low-key manner, expressed the administration's concern on Tuesday at the Russian Federation Government's angry statement but added that "cooperation in bringing the Bosnian war to an end is in Russia's interests." The surprise publication by ITAR-TASS of a five-page document labeled "secret" is seen here as further evidence of a switch to Cold War jargon. NATO and the United Nations have confirmed the existence of this "Memorandum of Understanding," which allows large-scale raids to be carried out in response to threats of attack rather than actual military actions. Joe Silo, UN press spokesman, refused to explain in detail why this memorandum appeared, saying that this was an "internal document and was not due to be circulated among the Security Council members."

Washington views the forthcoming trip by Strobe Talbott, the number two man in the State Department, as an important attempt to bring Moscow back into the joint team which is concerned with the search for peace in Bosnia. A personal friend of President Clinton's, he is traveling on the president's personal instructions. The days of "friend Bill, friend Boris" have long since gone, but the administration is not losing hope of finding understanding in the Kremlin. But there will be no trade-off. Unless the 300 heavy guns are withdrawn from Sarajevo beyond the 12-mile zone the air raids will go on and the Tomahawk missiles will be backed up by F-117 bombers.

Bushehr Nuclear Plant To Begin Construction

LD1309151395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1249 GMT 13 Sep 95

[By Veronika Romanenkova]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow, 13 Sep (ITAR-TASS) — Russia is to begin the construction of the first generating set at the Bushehr nuclear station in a month. A delegation of the Russian Atomic Energy Ministry, which returned from Iran, has agreed the final details with regard to implementing the bilateral contract, the ministry's press center told ITAR-TASS today.

Experts once again deny that the equipment exported to Iran is of "dual use": the nuclear power station will be built for exclusively civilian purposes. The ministry describes as "absolutely groundless" Israel's concern, expressed in Kiev today by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, in connection with the sale of nuclear reactors to Iran. [passage omitted]

Political Issues

Yeltsin Meets With Groznyy Envoy Lobov in Sochi

LD1309135295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1332 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, September 13 (Itar-Tass) -- The Russian president's press service transmitted the following report to ITAR-TASS:

A meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Plenipotentiary Representative in the Chechen Republic and Secretary of the Russian Security Council Oleg Lobov was held in Sochi on Wednesday.

The President heard detailed information on the situation in the Chechen Republic. Lobov singled out the unsatisfactory situation with disarmament of illegal detachments and insufficient rates of restoration work among the main problems.

The plenipotentiary representative in the Chechen Republic told the head of state about the start of operation of construction and assembly organisations in Chechnya as well as at individual industrial enterprises.

Lobov reported the state of affairs with payment of salaries to civil servants, workers of public health, education and law enforcement bodies. It was noted at the meeting that the Chechen people met with satisfaction the Russian President's decree on additional compensation payments to people who suffered as a result of the crisis in the Chechen Republic.

It was pointed out at the same time that progress in restoration work and payments of material aid to crisis victims are delayed due to unsatisfactory financing. The President instructed the Government to take immediate measures to ratify the present situation even this September.

The meeting participants discussed creation of new jobs in the Chechen Republic and organisation of studies at higher educational establishments. Special attention was given to creation of conditions for Chechen young people of conscription age to serve, above all, at military construction detachments and civil defence units which could participate in restoration work in the Chechen Republic.

The President pointed to the need for continuing a search for new peaceful ways to stabilise the situation in the republic.

Some other issues were also discussed at the meeting which lasted more the 90 minutes.

Security Service Says Korzhakov Made 'Scapegoat'

LD1209170495 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 12 Sep 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Headlined: Aleksandr Korzhakov is being made into a scapegoat, tomorrow's issue of the ARGUMENTY I FAKTY weekly publishes a statement by the Public and Media Relations Section of the Russian president's Security Service.

Recently, says the statement, individual commercial structures have been trying to hide behind what they allege are the connections they have in the presidential Security Service.

However, all such assertions are groundless and plainly dishonest. The security service intends to react to such actions in an appropriate manner, as they encroach upon its reputation.

The security service will present specific facts concerning this statement in the next few issues of ARGUMENTY I FAKTY.

Monthly Profiles Yeltsin Advisers

954F3387A Moscow OGONEK in Russian Aug 95 No 35, pp 18-19

[Article by Marina Shakina, under the "Russian Politics" rubric: "What the Adviser Prescribed...."]

[FBIS Translated Text] A new presidential aide has appeared— the former deputy prime minister and minister for nationalities affairs, Nikolay Yegorov. The first "strongman" in the group of aides.

Nikolay Yegorov's image is inseparably linked with the Chechen war, one of whose inspirers he was. For this reason, he is an odious figure for democratic circles. Yegorov receded into the shadows after Budennovsk, after the announcement of his voluntary retirement, which he made at the Security Council. He left in order to remain, as has become clear today....

What advice could Yegorov give about interethnic relations? Now, after Chechnya, there is no doubt that qualified advice in this area is not his specialty. Yegorov's presence at Yeltsin's side has a symbolic meaning. Yegorov embodies the power of the south of Russia, which would be frivolous not to take into account before the elections.

It is known that Yegorov is steeped in the political attitudes of southerners—especially the Cossacks (and they are one of the stays of the president's power), that, being a governor, he was a strong and popular figure, that the anti-Caucasus direction of his politics is rooted in the world view of the local political elites. His very appearance on the Moscow "heights" was a result of the powerful pressure of the conservative south Russian lobby.

In political manners, Yegorov is a typical "strongman," although he is not entitled to shoulder-boards. Rectilinearity, toughness, an inclination to get everything by force.... In Yeltsin's circle of candidates of sciences coming from the Academy has appeared a tough aide "of the new type." Baturin, Satarov, Livshits....and Yegorov.

What can be expected from such a company?

Two Myths

Have you ever noticed that when the talk turns to the president's advisers, two mutually exclusive myths take possession of our minds. First, the myth of the "pernicious retinue": Supposedly, the nationally elected president is being twisted around by a "collective Rasputin"—the "gray cardinal" Burbulis, the "lab technician" Gaydar, or the "bodyguard" Korzhakov, and various Satarovs.

And the second myth: In fact, the Russian ruler does not need anyone in order to make decisions, that all these aides and advisers cannot do anything and do not influence anything—they only carry out orders from on high and make known the highest thoughts. And in general, upon coming to power, intellectuals quickly go bad—they turn stupid, base, and vulgar.

One cannot say that the myths about the retinue have had no basis whatsoever. After August 1991, it suddenly turned out that the old political order no longer existed, but that there was as yet no new one. The system of government collapsed—and what were we supposed to do? How were decisions to be made? How to analyze information, how to collect it, and with whose help? How to carry out the selection of cadres for government service?

And so the president's team, inventing, introducing some things and rejecting others—all this on their feet, began to complicate matters and experiment with elements of the new political system.

The end of 1991 saw the appearance of the position of state secretary, the state council, and state advisers, the Security Council, the position of its secretary, a certain council of experts, the public council under the president's office, and so forth. The unaccustomed councils and commissions were not anyone's machinations and intrigues; they were in many ways imperfect but absolutely necessary attempts to fill the vacuum of quality government.

The public and expert councils proved to be politically ineffective undertakings. The councils were ready to seethe, and the members of the councils to express themselves and debate as long as it was general issues under discussion, but when it came to the specific mechanics of politics, the councils demonstrated their impotence. The leaders of public opinion were marvelous and intelligent as long as it was general issues they were discussing. Having found themselves in power, they for some reason quickly faded.

And in fact, where is the once brilliant Popov, where the authoritative Starovoytova, where the civilized Stankevich? The first stage of the struggle to attract scholars to power ended in failure. It is noteworthy that now the president has no advisers at all.

Those intellectuals who have remained today to work in the presidential structures knew what they were getting into. They realize that they are concluding a compromise, that, in gaining their share in the making of decisions, they will bear a share of the responsibility for the president's policy—including for stupid, shortsighted policy. They are no longer intellectuals; they are servicemen.

The Retainers. Who Are They?

Yeltsin's current "retinue" is not well liked. And this is not just the notorious strongmen, but also his highly intellectual officials, of which there is no dearth around the president. The intellectuals finally came to power, but still everything is clumsy and everyone is dissatisfied....

At this point, those who can influence the president's decisions are concentrated in two institutional structures (if one does not count the government)—in the group of aides, led by Viktor Ilyushin, and in the president's administration, headed by Sergey Filatov.

There are nine people in the group of aides, of whom the most "visible," the ones most often honored with attention from the press, are aide for domestic political issues Satarov, aide for economic issues Livshits, and aide for national security issues Baturin. Baturin has the biggest staff—about a hundred employees, while Satarov, for instance, has three people.

The other segment of the intellectual "retainers" is concentrated with Filatov in the analytical center. Here, the retinue is understood to be first of all center head Mark Urnov, and Pain and Smirnyagin, who most often appear in the press. In all in the administration, there are more than 15 departments and a mass of various commissions.

All of these people came from science, were engaged in research work; each is a specialist, and practically all of them have advanced degrees. Moreover, according to Mark Urnov, the atmosphere in the presidential structures is in no way bureaucratic, but is creative, lively. Official instructions do not exist, there is no strictly observed hierarchy, there are no established mandatory procedures and diagrams of interaction, and every "retainer" is himself the creator of his own area of competence.

The "passability" of their work is up to 30 percent in their original form, Mark Urnov believes. That is, 30 percent of the specific drafts that the intellectuals propose to the president and the government are accepted.

What about the proposition that advice to the president is not needed, and what is required is merely rationale for his decisions? Not true, assert the "retainers." Fairly often the one in power does not know how to proceed.

Do the "retainers" work exclusively at the tasks set by the president, or do they themselves offer their own ideas? Both. And if an idea is not to his taste? Then the reaction on the part of the leadership is dead silence, as if there had never been a word said. Although later, if circumstances change, the unclaimed thoughts could resound from the lips of the leadership, and then the analysts realize that their efforts have not been in vain. So it was, according to Mark Urnov, with their report on Chechnya. After Budennovsk, the "retainers" heard in Chernomyrdin's speeches an echo of their own earlier suggestions.

All of them unanimously reiterate that there is not even any question of the privileges of Soviet times. Dachas are not given to everyone—Emil Pain, for example, is not entitled to one. Mark Urnov waited for half a year for a publicly funded dacha. Everyone is registered at the Kremlin clinic, but when it is necessary to get medical care, many people prefer private clinics, where the level of service is higher. Many of the president's analysts (for example, skilled jurists) are offered salaries of thousands of dollars in commercial structures. But power sucks one in. Trifles like cars, publicly funded dachas, "'one's own' people," with which the former scientific workers in the president's service become overgrown—each of these trifles has practically no significance. But all together....

Where Does Adviserophobia Come From?

The current intellectuals who surround Yeltsin evoke irritation in the public not only because they drive around in cars and live in dachas. But mostly because, despite the presence of the intelligentsia, power is, as before, often dark, savage, unwise.

In order to ennoble the authorities, it is not enough to keep pushing into power more and more highly educated researchers and spiritual leaders. Researchers still cannot restrain the rulers, and they themselves cannot refrain from making incorrect decisions. And spiritual leaders are simply ineffective at politics.

Some people, for example, believe that after Chechnya, all the intellectuals should have handed in their resignations.... But, for example, the ethnologist Valeriy Tishkov, who some time ago headed the department on nationalities affairs, today regrets that he yielded his place to Shakhray. The ministry has been transformed from the most peaceful to a strong-arm ministry. So for intellectuals in power, this consideration is of no little importance: If not I, then who? I will leave, and in my place will be....Yegorov?

Today one must not even hand in one's resignation in a sign of protest, because Yegorov is already knocking at the door and stepping over the threshold.

Suspicion with respect to the "retinue" has always been fed by a lack of information and the "palace nature" of Kremlin relations. There exists no generally accepted schema of cadre selection to the presidential staff. Officials were selected according to the principle of personal acquaintance—not the most reliable means, not a sign of quality. The element of chance is too great. But earlier, at least, it was required that an adviser-aide be an educated person. The former tough governor Yegorov marks a new stage in the brief history of the presidential retinue—his appearance is explained by political considerations.

The "retinue" will be feared until a stable, regulated political system appears in Russia, as well as strict political procedures prescribing all models of behavior of the participants in power.

In actual fact, do we want no one to have influence upon the president? This is simply unrealistic. It is not that way. And it will not be that way.

So the question is who will influence him, and in what way, who will have the right to do this. A precise answer to this question has not yet been found, neither by the legislators nor by the bureaucrats.

But we observe a remarkable tendency: The president's "pure" intellectuals were at first replaced by "service" intellectuals. Will the "service" intellectuals now be replaced by Yegorovs?

Kozyrev Promises To 'Turn Over New Leaf'

MM1309153495 KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 13 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Yelena Kalyadina under the "Last Call" rubric: "...While Kozyrev Looks for Aces"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Andrey Kozyrev appeared on the small screen on the Russian Public Television program "Versions" having been publicly rebuked by the president for the "unsatisfactory work" of the ministry entrusted to him. He was meeker than ever and resembled a diligent schoolboy who had received a "long-expected" unsatisfactory grade. He promised to turn over a new leaf in reply to Boris Yeltsin's stern warning about the prospect of "appropriate consequences" possibly ensuing. However, deep in his heart he had little idea of how to do so. Therefore, he tried to justify himself further. His point that the homeland was unable to shine in the present key foreign policy issue — the settlement of the Yugoslavian conflict — came across as particularly touching: We confronted the world for 70 years, he said — we have had enough, it is time to live in harmony. This is a fine time for friendship when the Serbs are being chased to the U.S.-sponsored negotiating table by the scourge of NATO missile and bombing raids. True, there is a chance that the table will be set up in Moscow, when an international conference fostered by our diplomatic ideal has been convened here. Then the Russian Foreign Ministry leader will get an opportunity to hand out indulgences. True, this will look funny: Russia's U.S. Balkan "capitulation" plan. But if the trick does not succeed, will the "consequences" promised by the president ensue? The threat of them is now more likely than before. However, the switch-around will, in my view, be simple. Kozyrev will be replaced by another "Kozyrev".

Communists Start Impeachment Procedures Against Yeltsin

LD1309172295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1716 GMT 13 Sep 95

[By Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, September 13 (ITAR-TASS) — The Communist Party faction in the State Duma said on Wednesday that it was going to initiate impeachment procedures against President Boris Yeltsin.

Duma Vice-Speaker Gennadiy Seleznev, who is also a member of the Communist faction, told journalists that "the president has virtually ignored the resolution and the statement adopted by the deputies at an emergency session, which allows NATO to continue the extermination of the Serbs."

Last summer the communists collected 190 signatures in support of their decision to start the impeachment procedures. However, the Duma voted down their proposal to set up a special commission to look into the charges brought against the Russian leader. The motion received only 168 votes out of 226 required and was dismissed.

Continued Reportage on Upcoming Duma Elections

Chernomyrdin, Yeltsin, Luzhkov Head 'Top Ten'

LD1309205295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1839 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 13 (INTERFAX) — Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, President Boris Yeltsin and Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov will head Russia's political top ten, the head of the Russian Center for Strategic Analyses and Prognoses, Prof. Dmitriy Olshanskiy, told a news conference in Moscow Wednesday. He cited the results of future ratings conducted by his center in early September.

According to Olshansky, State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin will move from fourth to seventh position in the general list by December.

According to the forecast, Chernomyrdin and Yeltsin will lead in the public politicians' rating list in December, while Rybkin will go down from third place to fifth, overtaken by Yabloko leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy and Communist leader Gennadiy Zyuganov.

The head of the presidential guard, Aleksandr Korzhakov, First Deputy Prime Ministers Oleg Soskovets and Anatoliy Chubays will head the rating list of establishment politicians in December.

Olshanskiy stated that the establishment politicians' rating was on the decline in the general rating list. Public politicians will oust them by December, he added. "This is the influence of the election campaign," he remarked.

Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, Sverdlovsk Region Governor Eduard Rossel, Nizhniy Novgorod Governor Boris Nemtsov and Tatar President Mintimer Shaymiyev will comprise the top five regional leaders in December, he added.

According to Olshanskiy, his future rating lists usually come true in 75% to 85% of cases, while the international standard for an effective forecast is 51%.

Shift in Yeltsin Stance Viewed

MK1309101795 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 12 Sep 95 p 1

[Analysis by Oleg Zhirnov: "The President Has New Friends?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This week has seen pre-election congresses and news conferences by a number of moderate parties and movements: the Congress of Russian Communities [KRO], the Social Democratic bloc, the Ivan Rybkin bloc, and the "Kedr" [Cedar] association. Congresses have also been held by more radically oriented associations: the "Russia's Choice" election association and the "Democratic Russia — Free Trade Unions" bloc, on one hand, and the Union of Patriots, comprised of the Officers Assembly, the Union of Armed Forces Veterans, and the Russian Sobor [Council] Party, on the other.

The "topic of the day," however, was not the competition of their programs or leaders but the president's criticism of the government at his pre-vacation news conference and the crisis that followed the NATO air strikes in Yugoslavia. As soon as they saw that Boris Nikolayevich had toughened his attitude to NATO and to his own government, the patriots rushed to proffer themselves to him as allies. The discussion of the NATO aggression at a State Duma emergency session proceeded under the slogan "Down with the premier — and the president will be with us." This point was openly made by the leader of the National Republican Party of Russia, N. Lysenko, who called on the Communists not to criticize the president, but to concentrate their fire on Chernomyrdin and the "fat cats" from his Gazprom [oil and gas company]. The LDPR leader, V. Zhirinovskiy, appealed to his Duma colleagues to "beseech the president on their knees" to take a hard line on NATO and promised LDPR support.

The Communists and the Agrarians were not so forthright. Still, in response to a question from your MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA analyst about whether the president could now ditch the premier, G. Zyuganov, leader of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, said, "I think so. And if he found a worthy premier, for instance, Skokov, he would confuse everybody."

The KRO, headed by Yu. Skokov, at its latest congress pointed to Chernomyrdin's "Russia Is Our Home" as its main opponent. Skokov himself is known as "the president's friend," although he maintains that now "the situation has changed: We have started a power struggle." Ilyushin, a man close to the president, is also rumored to have strong sympathies toward the KRO. The KRO intends to organize its upcoming events "to pique" Chernomyrdin in parallel with his initiatives, as though offering itself to the president as an alternative. A KRO congress will be held at the same time as the "Our Home" November congress. This month, simultaneously with a government economic conference, a KRO seminar on economic matters will take place.

The rationale here is simple: After parting with Chernomyrdin, the president will have to team up with the patriots, and the latter will support him in the election next summer. Boris Yeltsin for his part would be happy to blame all his sins on the premier and "drown" him together with these sins to the applause of the patriots. And then? To associate himself with the KRO means to enhance the already good chances of yet another leader of the "Russian communities" — A. Lebed — in the presidential election. In spite of all the ambiguities, Boris Nikolayevich [Yeltsin] would like to participate in this himself. Analysts have already suggested that B. Yeltsin only has a chance to win this election if in the second round he is paired off against V. Zhirinovskiy. Therefore, for the time being it will be critical to please Vladimir Volfovich — but not too much. So far the Zhirinovskiyites have been feeling the president's assistance in that he has not been hindering them. They are also afraid: What if B. Yeltsin makes either Chernomyrdin or the LDPR the "scapegoat" and shifts all his sympathies to Skokov and the communists....

So far the president has been hitting at the premier not so much at the government level as at the "party" level. Suddenly, like mushrooms after rain, closed pre-election congresses of pro-presidential blocs and movements were held. The Bloc of Independents was organized by I. Roytman, founder of the committee for the nomination of B. Yeltsin for a second term in office, and Kamchatov, the president's plenipotentiary in Moscow. The "Stable Russia" bloc emerged from the Duma's long-lost "Stability" faction, which has forgotten about its former friendship with "Our Home" and is now quietly taking pride in the fact that people from "Our Home" have started coming over to their camp. The notorious "party of power" is visibly splitting into two or even three, and the rank and file bureaucrat is desperately scratching his head: Where should those who wish to be "with the bosses" go?

Commission Registers Blocs, Certifies Lists

LD1209202695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1840 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Sept 12 (INTERFAX) — The Central Election Commission registered four more election blocs and certified 10 federal elections lists of various election associations Tuesday [12 September].

The commission registered the bloc Democratic Russia-Independent Unions, which includes the Democratic Russia movement and a national party of the same name. The Republican Party of Russia and the Young Republicans' Union created and registered the bloc Pamfilova-Gurov-Lysenko-Republican Party of Russia. The Party of Russian Assembly and the National Russian Party united in a bloc dubbed Patriots' Union. The Russian Union of Afghan War Veterans, Popular Patriotic Party and New Russia movement registered the For Fatherland bloc.

The commission certified the federal election list of the Economic Liberty Party, including 76 candidates. Another 46 candidates will run for the State Duma in single-mandate constituencies. Party leader Konstantin Borovoy, State Duma deputy Leonid Nekrasov and cosmonaut Vladimir Kovalenok are at the head of the panel.

The Patriots' Union submitted a federal list of 204 candidates and nominated 71 candidates in single-mandate constituencies. The union will nominate three leaders: Vladislav Achalov, Aleksandr Sterligov and Aleksandr Tizyakov.

The federal list of the Agrarian Party of Russia includes 270 entries, the maximum possible number of candidates. Mikhail Lapshin, Aleksandr Nazarchuk and Vasiliy Starodubtsev head the panel. The agrarians nominated 167 candidates in single-mandate constituencies.

The Derzhava movement led by Aleksandr Rutskoy, Viktor Kobelev and Konstantin Dushenov, also nominated 270 candidates in its federal list and 180 candidates in single-mandate constituencies.

The federal list of the bloc Pamfilova-Gurov-Lysenko-Republican Party of Russia includes 183 candidates, while 83 candidates will be nominated in single-mandate constituencies.

Stanislav Govorukhin's bloc nominated 168 candidates in its federal list and 72 in single-mandate constituencies. The bloc's other leaders are Oleg Rumyantsev and Viktor Aksyuchits.

The association We Serve Russia submitted a federal list which included 60 candidates, including Mikhail Nenashev, Galina Karasyova and Vladimir Danilchenko. The association nominated another 31 candidates in single-mandate constituencies.

Galina Starovoytova, Lev Ponomarev and Gleb Yakunin head the federal list of the bloc Democratic Russia-Independent Unions. This bloc nominated 99 candidates in its federal list and 67 more in single-mandate constituencies.

'Homeland' Confirms Pullout From Rybkin Bloc

LD1309134495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1319 GMT 13 Sep 95

[By Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, September 13 (ITAR-TASS) — The "My Homeland" association confirmed its decision on Wednesday to withdraw from "the Ivan Rybkin election bloc." The movement issued a statement on this topic on Tuesday, requesting reporters not to spread this information up to September 14. However, it permitted to lift the embargo already today. [sentence as received] A news conference is scheduled for Thursday where the movement' leaders will explain in detail their position.

The statement signed by Boris Gromov, Stanislav Shatalin, Viktor Mishin, Iosif Kobzon and some other members of the movement's Coordination Council blames the speaker of the State Duma (Russian parliament lower house) for "political inactivity and indecisiveness" as well as "a desire to remain in the shadows, not to identify himself with the constructive opposition to executive authorities as well as to avoid cares of the leader."

"This position played a destructive role for the bloc, turning the collective of like-minded people into a seat of misunderstandings, unhealthy competition, mutual offences and mistrust of one another," the document continues.

In this connection, the statement stresses, the Coordination Council of the "My Homeland" movement took a decision "on a withdrawal as a whole from 'the Ivan Rybkin bloc', on striking out all its candidates from the federal list and the list of one-seat constituencies of this bloc, on the withdrawal of the draft political platform of the bloc and our symbols on the basis of authorship rights to them."

Thus, only "Union of Realists" led by Yuriy Petrov, real possibilities of which are very limited, remains in "the Ivan Rybkin bloc" from among more or less known associations.

The withdrawal from the centre-left bloc at first of trade unions and United Industrial Party and then the "My Homeland" movement which "takes away" Boris Gromov, the most prominent figure on the list of candidates, puts into doubt the very existence of "the Ivan Rybkin bloc."

Rybkin To Return To Handle Situation

LD1309172995 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1500 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Sept 13 (INTERFAX) — Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin, currently on vacation in Sochi, will make a pre-term return to Moscow Thursday due to the situation in the left-centrist election bloc he is heading, a well-informed source close to the Rybkin bloc told INTERFAX.

All the 22 members of the "My Motherland" [as received] association have decided to separate from the Rybkin bloc. The decision was taken by General Boris Gromov and Academician Stanislav Shatalin, who headed the federal list of the bloc, as well as leader of the "My Motherland" association Viktor Mishin and famed singer Iosif Kobzon.

A source speaking on condition of anonymity told INTERFAX, that the real reason for their separation is "the striving of the association leaders to have more of their candidates among the 12 top names of the bloc's federal list (they now have only four of them). Their striving has been denied by the bloc."

According to the source, heads of the "My Motherland" association put it as an obligatory condition to have Iosif Kobzon among prime candidates of the bloc's federal list.

A new federal list of the Rybkin bloc will be submitted to the Central Electoral Commission next Friday, said the source.

He stressed that the "three top leaders will be no less authoritative and representative than it was before."

An official statement of the Rybkin bloc press center on the bloc situation will be issued on Wednesday afternoon.

Shatalin Sees Success for 'My Fatherland'

LD1309171995 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1500 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Sept 13 (INTERFAX) — The election movement My Fatherland, which withdrew from Ivan Rybkin's election alliance on Tuesday, will easily clear the 5-percent hurdle and conduct a successful election campaign, Russian Academy of Sciences member Stanislav Shatalin has said.

As he commented on the withdrawal of the My Fatherland movement from Ivan Rybkin's alliance, Shatalin, who had been in the middle part of that bloc's federal list, said that he fully agreed with the movement's coordinating council in the sense that Ivan Rybkin's position was politically emasculated and destructive for the association in the run up to the elections.

Shatalin confirmed that the movement would participate in the elections on its own. However, he did not rule out unification with other political forces. Negotiations on concerted action may begin shortly. Shatalin refused to name likely allies, but remarked that Our Home Is Russia would not be among them.

At the same time he said that the current situation "is so uncertain that it makes no sense to discuss the topic." "The only thing I am quite certain about is that we shall rely on intelligent people," Shatalin said.

He added that he had discussed his withdrawal from the alliance with Rybkin, who responded to that decision normally.

The regional part of the Rybkin alliance's election list earlier included such members of My Fatherland as economist Nikolay Shmelev and Deputy President of the Reform fund Stanislav Assekritov, who have also refused to take part in the elections in single mandate constituencies form the Rybkin alliance.

Ryzhkov Bloc's Platform Published

MM1409090595 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
12 Sep 95 p 2

["'Power to the People!' Electoral Association's Election Campaign Platform" — PRAVDA headline]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Much has befallen our people. We built a society without exploitation of man by man. We defended the motherland. We restored the war-ravaged national economy. We developed science and culture. We studied, worked, loved, brought up children, and had a secure old age. The Soviet people had confidence in their future.**

We succeeded in creating a great country with high scientific and technical potential and with social security for people.

We have a heroic history, but it also contains tragic pages because we were the trail-blazers. We were the first to pave the new way for the further development of world civilization.

Russia is now in a state of most profound crisis which affects all aspects of the people's life; its citizens are now facing poverty and the lack of rights for working people. There are millions of unemployed and deprived people. The social rights to labor, secure old age, and free health care, education, and housing have been eliminated.

The moral values which are historically inherent in our people are being overthrown. The economy is collapsing. The state's defense might has been undermined. Crime has reached unprecedented heights.

The historically developed state of the USSR has been destroyed. Tens of millions of people have been deprived of a motherland. There are millions of refugees. Russia's unity and independence are under threat.

Our country is becoming a colony of the West.

Our Objectives:

We advocate the prevention of a national disaster, a change of the country's socioeconomic and political policy, the elimination of the consequences of destructive "reforms," and the fatherland's rebirth.

We have everything we need to achieve this: talented and industrious people, natural resources, scientific and production potential. It is necessary only to change the course of transformations in the people's interests. Power in the country must belong to the people.

We advocate the restoration of a strong and united Russia with equality for Federation components, an upsurge of its economy and a revival of traditional spiritual values, and utmost support for our compatriots who have found themselves living "abroad" as a result of political shock waves.

We advocate the reunification of the peoples comprising the Soviet Union on a new economic and political basis.

Confirming our commitment to people's-patriotic ideals, we advocate the building of a society of social justice combining the achievements of the Soviet era and the new mechanisms of a diverse economy which are acceptable for Russia. We advocate freedom of producers and effective state regulation, as well as diverse forms of ownership — state, collective, public, and private.

We advocate social self-government, accountability of the executive branch to elected representatives of the people, and genuine people's power in the form of renewed soviets.

We advocate the imposition of order in our fatherland.

Russia's Spiritual Path

During this century Russia (the USSR) has lived through two devastating world wars with economic destruction on a vast scale and the loss of tens of millions of human lives. But each time, with a speed that stunned the world, it rose from the ashes and advanced — with painful difficulty but steadfastly — toward the peaks of human culture and practice.

History has decreed that Russia today must not only find its own original path of development but also pave the way for human civilization. Not in the backwoods, not following in the West's footsteps, but in the vanguard of civilization — this is Russia's historic mission.

Russia's national rebirth is possible only on the basis of people's patriotism, a sense of love for the motherland, an awareness of the country's history and the specific features of its development, and recognition of the fact that each citizen's fate is inseparable from Russia's fate.

The working man, creator of material and spiritual values, must provide the basis of the national rebirth. The prestige of honest labor must be restored.

Russia's future is in the young people's hands. It is necessary to create all conditions for their fitting upbringing and education, for their economic, political, and cultural self-expression. And it must always be borne in mind that a child is the main asset of each and every person and of society as a whole.

But there is no future for a people losing their respect for the older generation.

One of the specific features of the Russian and other nations in our country is their spirituality and collectivism, which ensured each nation's original development in the harshest of historical conditions. We intend to safeguard and develop these traditions.

The peoples' shared economic and spiritual values are the basis of their unification. We are convinced that the Russian language will retain its historical unifying mission.

We have a respectful attitude toward our society's ideological and religious values, and toward Russia's traditional religious confessions — primarily Orthodoxy — which work to our people's benefit.

The People's Moral and Physical Health

There cannot be a flourishing society or a strong state without healthy, educated, and morally integral citizens. This requires:

— restoration of the system of social guarantees which operated in the USSR, including free and accessible health care, pursuit of firm state policy of employment, availability of low-rental housing, and cheap public transport;
— free and compulsory general secondary education, free higher education, and priority state financing for secondary and higher education;

— protection of motherhood and childhood, support for large families, restoration of the system of preschool education, reduction of the workday for wives with children and for single mothers, increase of statutory leave;
— creation of conditions for the proper nutrition of each child, restoration of subsidies for children's goods and for the maintenance of the system of children's institutions, summer health camps, and sanatoriums; solution of the problem of child homelessness, and creation of an atmosphere of attention and concern for orphans;
— a pension system ensuring a dignified life for people who crated our country, support for war veterans and the disabled;
— state financing for fundamental research and university science, incentives for the introduction of the results of scientific research by enterprises and firms along priority avenues;
— prevention of any further deterioration of the ecological situation, radical improvement of the environment's condition;
— solicitous attitude toward the Russian and Soviet cultural heritage, state and public concern for the sphere of culture, art, and folklore;
— development of mass physical culture and sports.

The Economy

The economy is the key to the solution of Russia's problems: Extrication from the crisis and restoration of the national economy to begin with, followed by creation of a modern and highly efficient economy based on Russia's vast potential.

The main task is to ensure higher living standards for the population. What is needed is not an amended course of reforms but a radical change of the strategy and tactics of socioeconomic transformations.

For this purpose it is necessary to:

— halt the policy of "shock therapy" which leads to the plundering of national wealth, the stifling of our country's commodity producers, and the financial bleeding of the economy;
— put an end to the headlong stratification of society into a rich minority and a poor majority, and to the criminalization of Russia's economy;
— halt the slump of production and the destruction of the country's scientific, technical, and production potential, and encourage the boosting of business and investment activity;
— preserve the country's production and intellectual potential, eliminate mass unemployment, and assist in enhancing the trade unions' role in protecting the interests of working people.

The country is on the brink of disaster. This must be realized by all on whom the overcoming of the crisis depends: state enterprises, banks, commercial structures, and individual entrepreneurs. In order to save the economy we need a national economic accord which will make it possible, through joint efforts, to channel resources into reviving production and solving the most acute social problems.

In order to implement the new economic course, the "Power to the People!" Bloc deems it necessary to:

— analyze the results of privatization, verify its legitimacy, and return any unlawfully privatized facilities to the people; property acquired at reduced price must be revalued and compensation must be paid for the difference; the relations of ownership must be changed so as to overcome the alienation of workers and labor collectives from the means of production and the results of their labor;
— restore the controllability of the economy and reinstate the artificially destroyed links between enterprises in the former USSR;
— regulate intersector price correlations and overcome prevailing imbalances; eliminate price differentials between agricultural and industrial output; pursue a policy of consistent price reduction, primarily for consumer goods and services;
— raise real wages while reducing gaps between personal incomes, which will lead to expansion of effective demand and a revival of production;
— implement a reform of the tax system with a view to creating favorable conditions for the development of production in our own country; control and regulate the credit and monetary sphere;
— ensure preservation of the status of the land and the minerals it contains as a national asset; land cannot be bought and sold, with the exception of personal, truck garden, and dacha land plots; create a system of preferential taxation, credits, and state support for agro-industrial production and the provision of social facilities in the countryside;
— create a guaranteed system of state support for the military- industrial and aviation-space complexes, civilian machine building, and light industry; develop and update the national economy's base sectors: the coal, oil, and gas industries, power engineering, and transportation;
— create incentives, introduce benefits, and ensure state guarantees for capital investment in production and the social sphere, restore confidence in the state system for personal savings;

— introduce a monopoly in the export of strategic commodities and the production of a series of high-revenue commodities;
— create economic, legal, and other conditions to prevent the outflow of capital from Russia and ensure its return; put an end to the imports policy which stifles our own country's commodity producers;
— achieve a consolidation of the national currency.

The basis of state regulation must be provided by a coordination plan and program defining the best possible national economic proportions for several years ahead and creating stability and predictability in the economy.

We are not calling for a return to the supercentralized plan- distributive system. On the other hand, it should not be the uncontrolled market forces but society through the state that lays down the main priorities and proportions in the interests of the national economy and the population.

Following the national economy's restoration and stabilization, it will be necessary to move on to the stage of the economy's structural restructuring on the basis of accelerated scientific and technical progress.

All levers of the economic and financial mechanism ought to be fundamentally changed in line with the new tasks.

Struggle Against Crime and Corruption

The state is obliged to guarantee the safety of each citizen and eliminate the socioeconomic causes engendering crime. Rampant crime is due not to the lack of tough laws but to the fact that they are not implemented.

In order to radically change the situation, the government must be held fully responsible — not just in words but in deed — for the state of law and order in the country. It must primarily get rid of corruption within itself. It is necessary to:

— introduce mandatory declaration of incomes by state apparatus staffers;
— create an effective and coordinated system of struggle against organized crime involving the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs], the FSB [Federal Security Service], and other law enforcement organs; step up parliamentary monitoring of their activity;
— restore meaningful prosecutor's oversight of the observance of laws;
— involve the people's masses in helping the law enforcement organs;
— put an end to the propaganda of violence, pornography, cruelty, and other base instincts in the mass media;
— strive to eradicate child homelessness;
— protect Russia from international crime;
— take measures to repay the money of defrauded depositors.

National Security and Military Organizational Development

It is necessary to terminate the effect of treaties and agreements and the implementation of provisions in the current military doctrine which damage Russia's state interests; define national security priorities in foreign and domestic policy and formulate a new military doctrine.

A strong state needs a strong army. Military service must be a matter of honor for each citizen. It is necessary to:

— change society's attitude toward the Army, enhance the Army's prestige, improve the situation within the Armed Forces, and restore the honor and dignity of Russian officers;
— aim for proper material backup for servicemen; radically improve social protection for officers and members of their families, primarily as regard the provision of housing;
— universal military service coupled with the training of highly skilled officer cadres must be the basis of the Armed Forces' manpower acquisition;
— while advocating reductions of nuclear arms, we believe that for some time to come they will remain the most important component of the country's security;
— at the same time it is necessary to maintain the combat ability of conventional armed forces at a high level; the Army must have adequate quantities of modern equipment and weapons;
— review the system of draft deferment, retaining the system of enabling students at higher and specialized secondary education establishments to complete their studies.

Russia's Foreign Policy

In order to restore Russia's position as a world power, it is necessary to:

— ensure genuinely good neighborly relations with all countries which comprised the USSR; assist the unifying tendencies, including those in the defense and foreign policy spheres; aim for a referendum on the unification of our peoples;
— aim for restoration of the independence of Russia's foreign policy;
— take energetic measures against Russia's further isolation, its encirclement by military blocs, and NATO's eastward expansion;

— put an end to the growth of the state's external debt. Conduct a parliamentary audit of the expenditure of borrowed funds.

We advocate Russia's openness toward the outside world and diverse forms of international cooperation which are not detrimental to Russia's interests.

Many people today have lost their faith in the future. But Russia's people have enough vital strength to ensure that the country emerges from its present trials renewed and strong. We believe that the 21st century will be Russia's century.

Social Democrats List Candidates

LD1309171595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1500 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Sept 13 (INTERFAX) — The Social Democrats election alliance finished forming the list of candidates for State Duma members late Tuesday night, the press-service of the Social Democratic Union (SDU) has said.

The bloc relies heavily on the Russian Movement for Democratic Reforms (RMDR), SDU, and the movement Young Social Democrats of Russia.

The federal list is led by RMDR leader, former Mayor of Moscow Gavriil Popov, SDU chairman Vasiliy Lipitskiy and Academy of Sciences member Oleg Bogomolov, who participated in the previous State Duma elections on the Democratic Party ticket.

Communists Fail To Unite Nationally

MM1309144695 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Sep 95 p 1

[Unattributed report from the PRAVDA Own Information Bureau roundup: "Communists Working Together"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Secretariat of the Union of Communist Parties-CPSU Council has adopted a statement which explains why the communist parties will be running as three independent formations in the State Duma elections. "Unfortunately, the leaders of the communist parties lacked the political will to unite all Russia's communist forces.... At the same time, communists and the parties' leading organs are reaching agreement among themselves locally and working together to field common candidate deputies and secure their election from single-seat districts. They understand that it is still possible today to change the existing anti-people system in Russia by peaceful means and help millions of people avoid suffering. In order to win it is necessary to unite people. The election platform 'For Our Soviet Motherland' can form the basis for the unification of communists and all patriots."

Communists Seek Ties With Other Parties

LD1309171795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1627 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Sept 13 (INTERFAX) — The Communist Party of Russia is interested in cooperation with the Congress of Russian Communities in single mandate constituencies. The Communists will confirm their candidates with the CRC and make sure that Communist and CRC candidates do not clash in the same constituencies, the chief of the Communists' election team Valentin Kuptsov has said.

He said that federal lists would by no means be reconsidered or merged.

The Communists plan similar consultations with the Agrarian Party (Mikhail Lapshin), Power to the People (Nikolay Ryzhkov), and Russian Communist Workers' Party (Viktor Anpilov).

Media Issues

Major Newspapers List Favorite Politicians

954F3388B Moscow OGONEK in Russian Aug 95 No 35, p 48

[Report by Mariya Rodina: "Whom the Newspapers Love Most"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The closer the elections get, the more frequently the names of political figures will flicker on the pages of publications. We intend to record this "flickering" on a weekly basis and determine the winners.

The data presented here is our first offering in this regard. As a start, we publish results for the month with respect to 10 of the newspapers in largest circulation (political figures mentioned a total of seven times or less are not entered in the table).

Frequency of name appearance in publications over the month was distributed as follows: Key — ARGUMENTY I FAKTY—(1), IZVESTIYA—(2), PRAVDA—(3), ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA—(4), KOMMERSANT-DAILY—(5), OGONEK—(6), TRUD—(7), MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI—(8), MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS—(9), SEGODNYA—(10)

Yeltsin: 20 (1), 41 (2), 86 (3), 146 (4), 110 (5), 20 (6), 16 (7), 12 (8), 60 (9), 157 (10);

Chernomyrdin: 13 (1), 27 (2), 48 (3), 188 (4), 84 (5), 80 (6), 8 (7), 11 (8), 13 (9), 70 (10);

Zhirinovskiy: 14 (1), 62 (2), 11 (3), 17 (4), 20 (5), 5 (6), - (7), - (8), - (9), 51 (10);

Rybkin: 4 (1), 4 (2), 10 (3), 28 (4), 50 (5), 11 (6), 2 (7), 5 (8), 6 (9), 55 (10);

Yavlinskiy: 8 (1), 9 (2), 4 (3), 15 (4), 7 (5), 4 (6), - (7), - (8), 5 (9), 23 (10);

Luzhkov: 6 (1), 7 (2), 7 (3), 1 (4), 5 (5), 1 (6), 1 (7), - (8), 15 (9), 36 (10);

Zyuganov: 3 (1), - (2), 12 (3), 6 (4), 8 (5), 4 (6), - (7), 3 (8), - (9), 15 (10);

Gaydar: 6 (1), 14 (2), 14 (3), 15 (4), 47 (5), 30 (6), - (7), 2 (8), - (9), 11 (10);

Lebed: 6 (1), 10 (2), 12 (3), 1 (4), 11 (5), - (6), - (7), 5 (8), - (9), - (10);

Shakhray: - (1), 17 (2), - (3), - (4), 18 (5), - (6), 7 (7), 6 (8), - (9), 3 (10);

Rutskoy: 3 (1), 3 (2), - (3), 3 (4), 2 (5), - (6), - (7), 6 (8), - (9), - (10);

Baburin: 3 (1), - (2), - (3), - (4), - (5), - (6), - (7), - (8), 7 (9), 4 (10);

It is significant that the names of political figures most often appear at present without a "sign," i.e., without a rating.

Yeltsin is the absolute leader, but his name usually appears in connection with presidential activity.

Names mentioned more frequently than the others: Chernomyrdin (542 times), Zhirinovskiy (180 times), Rybkin (175 times). Then come Gaydar (139 times) and Yavlinskiy (75 times).

The newspaper SEGODNYA is the absolute leader with respect to frequency of appearance of all leading politicians. IZVESTIYA is in front with respect to Zhirinovskiy, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA—with respect to Chernomyrdin, and KOMMERSANT- DAILY—with respect to Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin, and Gaydar.

Seminar Addresses Media Role in Duma Elections

Official Urges Impartiality

LD1309120395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1126 GMT 13 Sep 95

[By Lyudmila Ermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, September 13 (ITAR-TASS) — Addressing the all-Russia seminar on "Means of Mass Information and the 1995 Elections" here today, Vice-Chairman of the Russian Central Elections Commission Aleksandr Ivanchenko called on journalists to display objectivity and impartiality, to observe moral and ethic principles.

The seminar was organised by the Central Elections Commission and the Russian Union of Journalists with the participation of the U.S. "Freedom House" Foundation. The Union of Journalists believes that it should serve as a prologue to the Congress of Journalists, which opens on Thursday, since it is impossible to speak about their work today without touching on the coverage of the election campaign. The seminar is being attended by Russian Vice-Premier, Itar-Tass Director-General Vitaliy Ignatenko, members of the State Duma, Chairman of the Court Chamber for Informational Disputes under the Russian President Anatoliy Vingerov, chief editors of many central and regional newspapers.

Stressing that it is importance to give the candidates to the State Duma a chance to directly address the electorate, Ivanchenko familiarised the seminar with the Draft Instruction on rules for giving them time on the air on different channels of the state television and radio, as well as space in periodical publications. He drew attention to the fact that this document, drawn up in keeping with the laws on principal suffrage rights and parliamentary elections, guaranteed the equality of candidates and movements in the mass media during the canvassing campaign. Indicated among the canvassing functions are not only speeches and addresses by the conteders, but also interviews, press conferences, debates, roundtables, and political advertisements. The Instruction gives the candidates the right to get free-of-charge air time on channels of the All-Russia Television and Radio Company from November 15 to December 15. The duration of the statements will be strictly regulated. Additional canvassing time will have to be paid for.

The Instruction has received preliminary approval. Ivanchenko asked the seminar participants to state their views and hand in their proposals concerning the document. After they are studied, he said, the Instruction will be endorsed by the Central Elections Commission next week.

The representative of the Central Elections Commission drew the attention of journalists to the impermissibility of clandestine electioneering, urged them not to express any likings or dislikings for the candidates in their publications.

Delegates Discuss Canvassing Rules

LD1309120695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1129 GMT 13 Sep 95

[By Tamara Ivanova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, September 13 (ITAR-TASS) — Representatives of the regional mass media have joined discussions on honest rules of canvassing in the run-up to parliamentary elections. At a conference which is being held in Moscow representatives of the press will make their amendments to a draft document worked out by the Central Electoral Commission on the rules of a canvassing campaign. The conference was organized by the Central Electoral Commission and the Union of Russia's Journalists with the participation of the U.S. "Freedom House" fund.

First Deputy Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission Aleksandr Ivanchenko has called on the Union of Russia's Journalists to work out the rules of covering the canvassing campaign, relying on journalists' ethics code. Ivanchenko said that these rules should professionally organize journalists and reasonably restrict their activities in the period of the election campaign.

Chairman of Russia's Union of Journalists Vsevolod Bogdanov reminded of the fact that having outlined a code of professional ethics, the journalists voluntarily pledged to observe its norms. He reiterated that the absence of legislative norms of state protectionism of the "fourth power" has yielded negative results. Spontaneous price increases for paper, polygraph and post-office services have rendered the majority of the Russian mass media helpless without financial support provided by commercial structures, major political parties, blocs and movements.

The chairman said that he believes a split in society might be followed by a split in the mass media, which would trigger the appearance of new structures in journalism which would work for quite definite political parties, blocs and movements. Although the Union of Journalists has formulated moral principles of covering the elections, without resolving economic problems of the journalists' corps at a top level the best of ideas might not be realized under hard conditions of present-day realities, Bogdanov said.

He supported the idea suggested by the Central Electoral Commission to work out rules of covering the election campaign with the participation of the League of Television, Publishers' Association, Duma lawmakers and lawyers.

Union Leader Urges 'Emergency Steps' for Media

LD1409115695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1139 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Tamara Ivanova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, September 14 (ITAR-TASS) — The situation with "the fourth power" in Russia is such that emergency steps must be taken to "save the cause we serve," Chairman of the Union of Journalists of Russia Vsevolod Bogdanov said in his opening address to the extraordinary congress of the Union here today.

Bogdanov said the government's words were at odds with its deeds, the new bill on government support of the media and book-publishing has been blocked for several years and the President has vetoed the law on support of city and regional newspapers which are the worst hit by the new economic situation.

Bogdanov said this was largely due to the ongoing struggle between different branches of power, each striving to appear as the main benefactor of the press and the media.

Along with this, Bogdanov said there was a chance to make headway towards solving many outstanding problems since professionals and like-minded people had now "come to power" in practically all structures relating to the mass media.

If more journalists are elected to the Duma in the forthcoming parliamentary elections, that will give the media more leverage, even though the Union official said he was opposed to the Union of Journalists teaming up with any of the existing alliances or movements. He said its members should better run individually in one-seat constituencies.

Bogdanov said Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin had signed a resolution to give the Russian Union of Journalists the money generated by an electronic lottery in the Russian Federation in 1996. The money will remain in the regions where the lottery is due to be held to support publications and social protection of journalists.

The Prime Minister's interest was evoked by Izvestia chief editor Igor Golembiovskiy's idea concerning state loans to finance the reconstruction and development of the paper-making industry. These loans could help set fixed prices of newsprint for newspaper publishers.

Military & Nuclear Issues

Paper Deplores Delay in Soldiers' Pay Raise

MM1309141495 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 12 Sep 95 p 1

[Article by Ivan Ivanyuk: "Bureaucratic Red Tape Is Delaying the Increase in Servicemen's Pay. The Government, for the Umpteenth Time, Is Flagrantly Violating the Law 'On the Status... [of Servicemen]'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Will they finally increase servicemen's pay? In recent days our readers have been constantly calling us to ask that question. Workers in the budget-funded sector had a pay raise from September, and civil servants too. But those who wear shoulder boards are also in the state service, and their only source of income is also the budget. One-third of September has already passed, so why is there still no decision on the Armed Forces and the other power structures?

All the indications are that the fall "delay" has caused people's patience to run out. After all, they have been waiting for the increase for months now. Under the Law "On the Status of Servicemen," the indexation of pay is to take place every time there is an increase in the minimum wage in the country — official salaries for primary military posts of those on contracts must be not less than five times the minimum wage. From 1 May of this year that minimum was increased to 43,700 rubles [R] a month, and immediately after the adoption of the corresponding law the leaders of the Defense Ministry, Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD], Federal Security Service, and Federal Border Service put a proposal to the government that salaries be increased by 64 percent from 1 May. That coefficient made it possible to bring into line the two laws — on the status of servicemen and on increasing the minimum wage. It was then that the military began to live in hope of an improvement in their material position.

On 6 May the government instructed the Ministry of Labor and the Ministry of Finance, in conjunction with interested departments, to examine the matter and submit coordinated proposals. The labor and finance people did not openly sabotage the instructions, and gave their reply. True, they considered it beneath their dignity to coordinate it with anyone whatever. The Ministry of Labor admitted that under the Law on the Status of Servicemen the matter requires to be resolved, but since the money for it is not available in the budget, an increase in pay in the power structures should take place out of their internal "reserves." And the Ministry of Finance proposed that this problem be revisited in the process of adjusting the system of pay for servicemen and staffers of the internal affairs organs. We have written repeatedly about how the disparities in remuneration of people under the "power" structures create serious social tension in the troop collectives. The requirement to achieve a common denominator here is set forth both in the Law on the Federal Budget for 1995 and in government decree No. 505 of 24 May this year. Around the middle of June a decision on the subject of indexation of pay surfaced in the government: that the Finance Ministry's proposal be accepted. In other words, that the matter be postponed indefinitely.

Meanwhile a new law came along on increasing the minimum wage, which from 1 August became R55,000 a month. Now the leaders of the power structures sent a joint letter to the Russian Federation president requesting that the government be instructed to seek monetary resources to bring servicemen's pay into line with the Law "On the Status...." To achieve that, it was necessary to increase pay by 64 percent from 1 May and again by 26 percent from 1 August, making a total of 106 percent.

It is hard to judge whether this appeal reached the president's desk. Only the following sequence of instructions could be traced: A. Lifshits to A. Chubays, A. Chubays to the Finance Ministry, the Ministry of Labor, and the Ministry of Economics. To coordinate among themselves and with interested parties and to submit proposals, as usual. But once again, no coordinated actions came of it. The Ministry of Labor and the Ministry of Economics appear to be in favor of treating the servicemen like all budget-funded staffers and increasing their pay by 54 percent from 1 September. The Finance Ministry, to all appearances, is against even this half-measure. And after a second memorandum of instructions, they continued to maintain the silence of the grave up until the last minute. And indeed, what use are instructions from a vice premier, even a first vice premier, when the Finance Ministry simply ignores both presidential edicts and laws of the Russian state. In the context of a severe financial crisis any "dear bookkeeper" of ours, having risen to ministerial heights, can doubtless permit himself to look down on the State Duma, the Federation Council, and the head of state.

Nothing remained to be done but to call that highest-of-the-high organ and ask for clarification of the situation regarding servicemen's pay. My attempt to obtain an audience with Deputy Finance Minister Mr. Astakhov ended in failure. Andrey Andreyevich did not even honor me with a telephone conversation, claiming to be too busy. Among Finance Ministry leaders the state of being too busy is chronic. Every time KRASNAYA ZVEZDA invites a minister or one of his deputies to answer questions of concern to servicemen, they advise us to go to...the deputy chief of one of the departments, Mrs. Presnova.

Oh, the elegance of modern gentlemen who can feel their way to such a fine line in their behavior that you cannot immediately tell whether it is a case of being "under someone's thumb" or wanting to transfer the burden onto fragile female shoulders. But let us leave the enigma of male perceptions to the psychologists, and elegance, as the physicist Boltsman said, to the tailors and shoemakers (he was presumably not referring to their vocabulary).

...I called Yelena Afanasyevna Presnova. As was to be expected, she sent me to her ministry's press service. There, as I had discovered for myself before now, it is easier to get blood out of a stone than any information relating to financial policy.

Meanwhile, while the Finance Ministry steadfastly ignored the government instruction, another significant event took place — Russian Federation President B.N. Yeltsin's meeting with MVD leadership personnel. After this meeting the government was instructed to seek funds for indexation of the pay of servicemen of the internal troops and staffers of internal affairs organs by 54 percent from 1 September 1995.

The government, as if forgetting its earlier instruction and the treasury's former obstinate refusal to implement it, sent the Finance Ministry a new instruction: Take steps and report back. Decree No. 505, in which it was proposed to create an integrated remuneration system in the various power structures within the framework of the 1995 budget, was simply forgotten. Apparently the MVD had an opportunity to leave the army, the border guards, and the security behind. How are we to assess all this: Are we seeing the start of another division into "us" and "them?"

As for the servicemen, the ratio of their pay to other categories of citizens has reached an absurd point. All jobs are good, the poet said, choose one to your taste! All except for the profession of defending the Motherland. Thus in June, according to statistics, the average monthly wage in industry was in excess of R550,000, including figures of 1.3 million in the oil extraction industry, 1.0 million in oil refining and nonferrous metallurgy, 1.78 million in the gas industry, 997,000 in the coal industry, 940,000 in the electricity industry, 745,000 in transportation, 678,000 in construction, 628,000 in the food industry, and so forth. A soldier on contract, the main "workhorse" in the Army, has a wage of R134,000, not in June, but now, in September, and, including all the supplements, receives 278,000. A platoon commander, a lieutenant, gets 420-440,000, a company commander and captain 570-590,000. That is in the central regions of Russia, while in the remote regions it is 50-100,000 more. But there, as you know, wives do not have jobs, and on an officer's income, which arrives months late, you have to feed a family of three to five people. Can anyone in the government tell us how this can be done? The subsistence minimum per person throughout Russia is in excess of R300,000 (in July, according to State Committee for Statistics figures, it was 293,400), and in some regions it is two or three times that.

Rumor has it that the government once again, for the umpteenth time, intends to disregard the Law on the Status of Servicemen and at the same time the elementary principles of justice. To increase pay not from May, not from August, not even from September, but at best from October, and not by 106 percent, as should be the case, but by 54 or even 29 percent. True, while this item was being prepared for the press, the Finance Ministry could have arrived at a more objective and politically considered decision, couldn't it? The Army and Navy could, in theory, find out about this tomorrow, since the payment of September's wages is supposed to begin on 13 September for the troops. It would be possible to see whether the pay had been indexed or not before leaving the cash desk. But there is, alas, no hope of this — half the Armed Forces' officers and warrant officers have not even received their money for August. No doubt the Finance Ministry wants to stretch out its existing monetary reserves at least until the elections. But the 1995 budget was approved in such a way that there will hardly be enough, please God, until the next anniversary of the October Revolution.

Our newspaper has repeatedly said that cardinal measures are needed in the sphere of financing defense needs. The problems will not disappear of their own accord. And only an ostrich can bury its head in the sand. And even then it runs the risk that at any moment someone could come up from behind and give it a kick in the appropriate place....

Nuclear Subs To Supply Year Round Cargoes to North

LD1409090295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0817 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Vladimir Zuykov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Salekhard, Siberia, September 14 (ITAR-TASS) — The use of nuclear submarines can make shipping in the Arctic all year round. An experiment carried out jointly by the North Fleet command and the Yamalo-Nenets district administration helps to make basic adjustments to the delivery of goods to Russian Northern areas.

A military nuclear submarine of the Viktor-3 class brought peaceful cargoes to Kharasavey, a northernmost village on the Yamal peninsula, where geologists of the Kara oil- and gas-prospecting expedition work.

"The delivery of goods by rail, air and even river increase the cost of any cargo several times," Yamal Governor Yuriy Neyelov said in an interview with ITAR-TASS here on Thursday.

"We conducted talks with the North Fleet command last spring which offered to use nuclear submarines for the delivery of goods to the North. In the opinion of specialists, the use of submarines will make the delivery of goods much cheaper," the governor said.

The shipment of one tonne of fuel to Kharasavey from Arkhangelsk, for instance, costs more than 300,000 roubles by surface fleet, by submarines — nearly 90 percent cheaper. New possibilities are especially important for Yamal which starts to develop the promising Bovanenkovskoye gas deposit.

ITAR-TASS Reviews Safety at Nuclear Power Stations

LD1309211495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1131 GMT 13 Sep 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Veronika Romanenkova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 13 Sep (ITAR-TASS) — This year there have been two incidents of theft of radioactive materials from Russian nuclear installations. They both took place at the Mashinostroitelnyy Zavod [machine-building works] enterprise in Elektrostal, Moscow region, and involved the theft of low-grade enriched uranium. This was announced today at a news conference at Russia's state committee for supervision of nuclear and radiation safety [Gosatomnadzor].

Questions of the safekeeping of nuclear materials and illegal dealings in radioactive materials in the country recently have been causing particular concern among specialists. In 1993-1994 there were 19 recorded cases of theft of uranium and 12 cases of theft of sources of ionizing radiation. In 1992 alone there were over 40 recorded cases of anonymous warnings that explosive devices had been placed at nuclear industry installations.

Gosatomnadzor considers that another acute problem is how to deal with spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste. At present these materials, in the main, accumulate and are stored for long periods at the nuclear power stations themselves, and this increases the level of radiation danger. Thus, the storage facilities for liquid radioactive waste at the Bilibino, Kalinin, Kola, and Leningrad nuclear power stations are 70-85 percent full and at the Kursk nuclear power station the storage facilities for solid waste is almost completely full. A critical situation is building up at the stations with high-power pressure tube reactors (the Chernobyl type), fuel for which is not suitable for reprocessing and is not removed from the power station sites. For example, at Smolensk nuclear power station there is only enough space left for six months' worth of spent fuel at the station's normal rate.

However, Gosatomnadzor Chairman Yuriy Vishnevskiy noted that there was an incipient tendency for the safety level of nuclear power stations to rise. Thus, in the first half of 1995 at the nine Russian nuclear power stations there were 58 equipment failures while for the same period last year there were 88.

Nuclear Inspector Concerned Over Liquid Waste Situation

LD1309131295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1223 GMT 13 Sep 95

[By Veronika Romanenkova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, September 13 (ITAR-TASS) — Chief of the national atomic watchdog agency Yuriy Vishnevskiy expressed concern over the conditions of the storage of liquid radioactive waste, saying that the situation remains "complicated and close to an accident" in the Russia's Far Eastern and northern regions.

The problem of its safe storage and elimination has not been settled yet, Vishnevskiy told a news conference on Wednesday. The only way out of the current situation is making a considerable investment into the construction of waste recycling installations and the production of safe means of transportation. Such projects exists, but there is a lack of finance to carry them out, the expert said.

Control over the radioactive waste of the Russian Navy is one of the few spheres of the military complex in which agency inspectors can act, as a recent decree by the Russian President stripped the agency of some of its functions, Vishnevskiy said.

Under the decree, the atomic agency will not control the safety of nuclear weapons and nuclear reactors which are the main military objects. From now on, they will be inspected by the Russian Defence Ministry, he said.

The lack of conditions for a fair estimate of safety can lead to serious consequences. However, the situation can change in the future. The State Duma is expected to pass two new bills concerning the use of atomic power which stipulate that both military and civil nuclear objects will be inspected by independent controllers, Vishnevskiy said.

Federal Assembly

Deputies React to Situation in Former Yugoslavia

Lukin on U.S. Replacing of NATO Troops

LD1209165795 Stockholm Sveriges Radio Network in Swedish 1445 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The NATO attacks against the Serbs undermine the trust Russia has had for NATO. This was said by Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the Committee for International Affairs of the Russian State Duma, who is currently visiting Stockholm. If NATO were to replace the UN troops on the ground with soldiers from Muslim countries, this will lead to a catastrophe and a major war, Lukin says.

[Lukin in English, fading to correspondents report] This will be absolutely unacceptable for Russia. This will mean that the West is aligning itself with the Muslims against the Slavs. This will lead to a catastrophe, Vladimir Lukin says. He is upset about the so-far unconfirmed information that has leaked into the media in the last few days that the United States has plans to replace the UN troops in Bosnia with NATO troops, which in addition will be enforced with soldiers from a number of Muslim countries. Such a development will lead Christian Orthodox fundamentalists from Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine to go to the Balkans as volunteers to help the Serbs. This will lead to a major war, the chairman of the Russian International Affairs Committee says. [passage omitted]

Yushenkov Critical of NATO Airstrikes

MK1409124895 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 14 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Gleb Cherkasov: "'Russia's Choice' Disapproves of Bombardment of Serbian Positions by NATO. Sergey Yushenkov: 'Adherence to the Use of Military Means To Resolve the Crisis Raises Chances of Revanchists in Russia.'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Duma Defense Committee Chairman Sergey Yushenkov, commenting yesterday on the stance of the "Russia's Choice" faction regarding the Yugoslav crisis, said that "adherence to the use of military means to resolve the Balkan conflict seriously raises the chances that revanchist forces may come to power." In turn, Sergey Kovalev recalled that Yegor Gaydar's faction was the only one that opposed the State Duma's demand that sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia be lifted immediately and that Russia discontinue its participation in the "Partnership for Peace" program. He also said that "the position of the State Duma on the Balkan conflict can hardly be called well-balanced and rational, and this position is predetermined by an electoral hysteria built up by certain political forces." Mr. Kovalev said that "Russia's Choice" disapproves of the NATO bombardment of Serbian positions, "because this is merely leading to an aggravation of the conflict, since in Yugoslavia itself it is regarded as an act of unilateral support." "More than enough resolution and might have been demonstrated," Mr. Kovalev noted.

Sergey Yushenkov said that "Russia's Choice" intends to appeal to leaders of member parties of the International Democratic Union, the United Nations, and other international organizations, calling on them to consolidate their efforts to prevent further bloodshed in the Balkans.

Deputy Fears Russian, Western Dispute

LD1309165195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1500 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 13 (INTERFAX) — Duma Deputies Sergey Kovalev and Sergey Yushenkov, members of the Political Council of the Democratic Choice of Russia Party, have strongly disagreed with the Duma resolution on Balkan situation adopted Saturday.

They told a news conference in Moscow today that the demands for Russian unilateral lifting of sanctions against Yugoslavia and its terminated membership in NATO's Partnership for Peace program cannot be described as "reasonable and expedient."

According to Kovalev, "the Duma stand on the Balkan conflict can hardly be described as well-considered and reasonable. It was caused by election hysteria stirred up by certain political circles."

Kovalev fears that Russian parliament members may "add fuel to the fire of the regional war" in three working visits to Belgrade (the first team of deputies left for the Balkans this morning) and the official visit of a Duma delegation scheduled for early October.

The Russia's Choice faction strongly denounces NATO bombing of Serb positions that "aggravate the conflict, and are seen in Yugoslavia as one-sided support," stressed Kovalev.

Chairman of the Duma Defense Committee Sergey Yushenkov told the news conference he fears a "new coil of confrontation between Russia and the West" to follow the Duma resolution on the Balkan conflict.

He stressed that the Russia's Choice faction is against NATO bombing of Serb positions and said "the support of Western leaders to NATO actions plays into the hands of Russian nationalistic forces."

In the words of Yushenkov, Russia's Choice and its parliamentary faction are planning to call on heads of parties — members of the International Democratic Union, the United Nations and other international organizations for joint termination of bloodshed in the Balkans.

"The adherence to a military settlement of the Balkan conflict gives revanchist forces (from communists to national-socialists) more chances to gain power in Russia, which is fraught with the return to the Cold War and confrontation between Russia and the West," says a joint statement of Kovalev and Yushenkov.

The statement supports the initiative of Russian President Boris Yeltsin who has called for a conference of world leaders on settlement in former Yugoslavia to be held as soon as possible. In the opinion of the deputies, "everything must be done to hold this conference and adopt an effective resolution on Balkan settlement."

Duma Budget Task Force Rejects 1996 Forecast

MK1409075995 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 13 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Svetlana Lolayeva: "Deputies Disagree With the Government's Forecast for 1996. The Economy Ministry Intends To Defend It"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Serious differences between the government and [Duma] deputies emerged yesterday at a meeting of the State Duma working group on consideration of the 1996 state budget, where the forecast of socio-economic development of the Russian Federation in 1996 was discussed. The forecast was submitted in two versions — a normative one, based on an average inflation rate of 1.2 percent per month, and one envisioning a monthly inflation rate of 3 percent. Deputy Economy Minister Ivan Materov suggested that the budget should be considered in terms of the first version, with a special item for unbound reserves to be stipulated in the budget, funds of which would be allocated if the inflation rate exceeded the one predicted. A higher rate of inflation could be caused by an exorbitant indexing of wages and changes in the pattern of demand for oil and gas on the world market, which would affect the volume of Russian exports. In addition, Mr. Materov admitted that the government's monetary policy and the policy of granting unplanned subsidies could be adjusted.

Deputies, however, felt that the normative version proposed by the Economy Ministry was unrealistic. In the opinion of Mikhail Zadornov, chairman of the Budget Committee, an average monthly inflation rate of 1.2 percent would be impossible to attain, even technically. The forecast for 1996 reproduces the one for this year. Then, deputies agreed to accept the arguments of the government, which had the forecast built on an average inflation rate of 3 percent per month. In reality, it will reach no less than 7 percent this year despite the rigid credit and monetary policy, which has led to a reduction in budgetary expenditures and a significant fall in real incomes. In the opinion of working group members, this shows that such a policy is inefficient, and other tools need to be sought to combat inflation apart from having budgetary expenditures restricted.

Summing up the meeting, the working group recommended the government study the results of 1995 and the 1996 forecast in more detail. The Finance Ministry was asked to submit to the working group for consideration its unified budget, based on a monthly average inflation rate of 3 percent, and to prepare, jointly with the Economy Ministry, a forecast and a unified budget based on a monthly inflation rate of 5 percent, which would form the basis for the work of the group. Deputy Economy Minister Ivan Materov and Deputy Finance Minister Vladimir Petrov promised to bring the opinion of the working group to the government's notice. Both officials, however, speaking to your SEGODNYA correspondent, supposed that the cabinet will try to defend the figures stipulated in the submitted forecast and draft budget.

Zadornov Calls Budget 'Unrealistic'

MK1309133195 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 13 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Svetlana Lolayeva: "Mikhail Zadornov Believes the 1996 Budget Needs To Be Adjusted. The Budget Committee Chairman Proposes That the Government Calculate Revenues and Expenditures Anew"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The federal budget, as submitted by the government, "will not be approved by the State Duma," Mikhail Zadornov — chairman of the Duma Committee for the Budget, Taxes, Banks, and Finances — said at a press conference yesterday. Deputies' criticisms largely concern the forecast on socio-economic development in 1996 prepared by the Economy Ministry. In particular, the predicted average inflation rate of 1.2 percent per month is prompting objections. This year's experience shows that a deliberately lowered rate of inflation that is, in fact, higher makes a budget quite feasible as regards revenues in absolute figures. The share of expenditures envisioned in the budget, however, diminishes with respect to gross domestic product [GDP]. Whereas in 1994, the share of budgetary expenses approved by the parliament was 22.7 percent of

GDP, in 1995, according to some preliminary studies, it fell by 5 percent, to 17.3 percent. The government, therefore, can use the resulting gap, formed owing to additional inflationary revenues, at its own discretion. According to Mr. Zadornov, this year these revenues were used to grant loans worth 4 trillion rubles [R] not envisioned in the budget, and to cover expenditures on Chechnya.

Mikhail Zadornov believes that yet another serious drawback of the submitted budget is the absence of any significant changes in taxes. The budget takes into account the abolition of the special tax, the tax on the excess wage bill, but, on the whole, it preserves the previously existing taxation system. In Mikhail Zadornov's opinion, proposals to raise the value-added tax by 1 percent and to impose sanctions if the growth of the wage fund exceeds the rate of inflation will not be supported by deputies.

The 1996 budget retains some income sources that evoke Mr. Zadornov's serious doubts. The 1995 experience shows that it is impossible to count on receiving either privatization revenues or Central Bank earnings in the fully planned volume: Of R7.5 trillion planned in 1995, the Central Bank transferred to the budget only R2 trillion, whereas privatization revenues by autumn were less than R200 billion, against R9.1 trillion planned.

There are no significant changes in the 1996 budget as regards its expenditure pattern, either. According to Mikhail Zadornov, "unless one uses accounting tricks," in 1996 all items will be downsized except for expenditures on international activity, servicing of external and internal debts (which will rise from 9 percent of GNP in 1995 to 14 percent in 1996), and expenditures on law-enforcement agencies. In addition, the expense items do not envision funding some laws already passed by the Duma, specifically those on veterans, social care for disabled persons, the minimum subsistence level, and the restitution of people's savings.

Mikhail Zadornov expressed the hope that the government is adequately assessing the situation and realizes that an inflation rate of 1.2 percent per month, on which the budget calculations are based, is unrealistic. In his opinion, it presents no great problem to recalculate the budget based on a more realistic inflation rate. Taking into consideration the fact that the first reading, scheduled for 11 October, will deal only with general characteristics of the budget, whereas its "essence" will be discussed only on its second and third readings, the government has enough time to adjust the budget accordingly. In addition, the Finance Ministry is known to have a unified budget calculated on the basis of a monthly inflation rate of 5 percent. Mr. Zadornov is sure that if the government refuses to make any adjustments, the budget could "get stuck" in the Duma.

Duma Security Chairman: Corruption Causing 'Decay'

LD1209153795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1348 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 12 (INTERFAX) — A senior member of Russia's parliament on Tuesday accused the executive branch of government of large-scale corruption.

Viktor Ilyukhin, chairman of the Security Committee of the State Duma, the lower house of parliament, told a news conference corruption had also spread to structures that form the basis for the electoral bloc Our Home Is Russia, led by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

"If Our Home Is Russia is successful in the (December 17) parliamentary election, all the corruption will pass from the executive structures of government into the State Duma, which does not have a record of high-standard morality anyway," Ilyukhin said.

He said that last year law enforcement services had started probing more than 2,700 cases of bribery, in 1,600 of which government officials were involved. During the first six months of this year, investigation began into 1,800 such cases, in 1,042 of which government officials were either suspected or charged. "One can imagine the scale of corruption in the executive branch, since, according to experts' conclusions, only between 5 and 8 percent of crimes committed for mercenary motives get solved," the committee chairman said.

He made a special mention of the case of the Vlastilina investment company, which has collapsed, failing to pay off its investors.

He said that, according to evidence given by Vlastilina head Valentina Solovyova, who escaped but was then arrested, and to other sources, the firm's clients included "high-ranking officials from presidential and governmental structures," "who either directly or through figure heads were handling many millions and billions, gaining enormous profits." Among Vlastilina's clients were Vladimir Shumeyko, speaker of the Federation Council, the upper house of parliament, and his wife, Ilyukhin said.

"The flagrantly arbitrary treatment of the law and the corruption of the entire state apparatus, and especially the upper echelons of authority," have brought Russia to the brink of "decay," he said.

Every year more than 20% of the oil produced in Russia and nearly $20 billion is smuggled out of the country, Ilyukhin went on.

"Whereas in 1992 the gold reserves of the country amounted to 200.5 [metric] tonnes, as of April 1 of the current year they were 120.2 tonnes."

The fighting efficiency of the nation's surface naval forces has fallen by about ten-elevenths or eleven-twelfths since 1990, that of its submarine forces by five-sixths or six-sevenths, Ilyukhin said.

He said Yegor Gaydar's government had borrowed $12.4 billion from abroad, while Viktor Chernomyrdin's government had borrowed another $6 billion by the end of last year. By the beginning of this year Russia's foreign debt swelled to $112.7 billion, Ilyukhin said.

Injured Deputy Lodges Suit Against Zhirinovskiy

LD1309124195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1038 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 13 (INTERFAX) — State Duma Deputy Yevgeniya Tishkovskaya, who was injured by Liberal Democratic Party leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy in the Saturday scuffle in parliament, told a press conference Wednesday, that she would explain to the voters during the forthcoming parliamentary elections "why they must not vote for the LDPR." She also said that during the 1993 parliamentary elections she left behind LDPR candidate Anatoliy Kashpirovskiy in her single-mandate electoral district in the Yaroslavl region.

Following the incident, Tishkovskaya lodged a suit against Zhirinovskiy at the Prosecutor-General's Office and is determined to demand compensation from Zhirinovskiy for the moral damage inflicted on her.

"This popularity, gained in a shameful scuffle, makes me shudder. I was only trying to protect the cross taken away from an elderly man," said Tishkovskaya commenting on Deputy Marychev's remark that "games like this ease tensions and are an integral part of the State Duma's work."

In defense of State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin, who did not interrupt the session despite the incident, Tishkovskaya said: "He was concentrating on his work and could not see me behind a crowd of men who were beating me," she said.

She also announced that Rybkin had asked the Prosecutor-General's Office to investigate the incident. This suggests that Rybkin was indignant about it, said Tishkovskaya.

Zhirinovskiy: 'Brawl' Will Win Votes

LD1309114895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1118 GMT 13 Sep 95

[By Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] MOSCOW September 13 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy does not regret the Saturday brawl in the State Duma in which he injured two women and even claimed the fight would add him popularity on the eve of upcoming parliamentary elections.

"It will bring me more votes", he told a press conference Wednesday and his deputy Stanislav Zhebrovskiy elaborated: "Most voters will see Vladimir Zhirinovskiy as he is, and people dislike sleek politicians".

During the fight Zhirinovskiy beat woman deputy Yevgeniya Tishkovskaya who tried to calm down the brawling deputies.

But Zhirinovskiy rejected accusations of hooliganism. [passage omitted]

Legislative, Regulatory Documents 3-9 Sep

95P50170

[FBIS Media Note] The following is a listing of Russian legislation recently published in the press of the Russian Federation compiled by FBIS. Numbers within parens indicate approximate wordage. Entries followed by the notation "Text" have been translated into English and are available in FBIS publications.

SECTION I: ECONOMIC LEGISLATION (EXPORT-IMPORT, BANKING, PRIVATIZATION, AUCTIONS, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT)

Government 11 August Decree No. 810 On Agreement With IBRD On Loan To Finance 'Public City Transport' Project, Plus Nulin Commentary. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Sep 95 p 4) (1200)

Government 11 August Directive No. 1138 On Agreeing Proposal To Open Tyumen Airport To International Traffic, Plus Similar Directive 1164 Of 26 August Relating To Arkhangelsk Airport And Commentary By Trufanov, Deputy Director Of Russian Ministry Of Transport Air Transport Department. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Sep 95 p 4) (600)

Goskomimushchestvo Directive No. 1105 Of 14 August Listing Banks Empowered To Conduct Interregional Share Auctions. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Sep 95 p 5) (200). Goskomimushchestvo Directive No. 1209 Of 29 August Adding Extra Banks To Above List. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Sep 95 p 5) (100)

Government 18 August Decree No. 816 On Modernization Of Samotlorskoye Oil Field Using Extraordinary Finance. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Sep 95 p 5) (400)

Government 18 August Directive No. 1156 Lifting Customs Duty Liability On Equipment Temporarily Imported By Joint Russian-Swedish Enterprise To Carry Out Forestry Improvement Work In Karelia. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Sep 95 p 5) (150)

Government 18 August Directive No. 1157 On Submission Of Law On Concession Contracts With Russian And Foreign Investors For State Duma's Consideration, Appointing Deputy Minister Of Economics Kossov Official Spokesman During Debate. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Sep 95 p 4) (100)

Government 18 August Directive No. 1178 On Submission Of Law Amending Earlier Tax Laws For State Duma's Consideration, Appointing Tax Service Deputy Leader Popov As Spokesman During Debate. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Sep 95 p 4) (150)

RF Government 20 August Decree No. 825 On Socioeconomic Development Of Russian Federation In First Half Of 1995 And Additional Measures To Improve Socioeconomic Situation In Second Half Of 1995. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Sep 95 p 6) (1600) (Text)

Government 26 August Decree No. 837 On Support For Public Movement For Protection Of Consumer Rights. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Sep 95 p 4) (700)

Government 26 August Directive No. 1170 On Distribution Of Feed Concentrates From State Stocks In Fourth Quarter Of 1995. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Sep 95 p 5) (250)

Government 30 August Directive No. 1183 On Sending Delegation To Montreal For ICAO Assembly Session. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Sep 95 p 4) (150)

Presidential Edict No. 889 Of 31 August On Procedure For Transfer Of Shares In Federal Ownership As Security For Loans, With Appended Set Of Rules And Velichenkov Commentary. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Sep 95 p 4) (2900)

Government 1 September Decree No. 859 On Excise Duty Rate For Natural Gas. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Sep 95 p 4) (200) (Text)

Yeltsin 31 August Edict No. 890 On Measures To Boost Exports. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Sep 95 p 1) (200) (Text)

Presidential Edict No. 899 Of 5 September On Issue Of State Securities Backed By Gold. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Sep 95 p 4) (150)

SECTION II: POLITICAL (INTERNATIONAL AND CIS AFFAIRS, ELECTIONS, CRIME, POLLUTION)

Government 26 August Decree No. 840 On Partial Change To Government Decree 1394 Of 19 December On Measures To Temporarily Limit Crossing Of State Border Between Russia, Azerbaijan, Georgia (Shipping Between Russian Port Of Tuapse And Georgian Ports Of Batumi And Poti Is Now To Be Permitted.) (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Sep 95 p 5) (200)

Presidential Edict No. 886 Of 29 August Appointing O.I. Lobov Plenipotentiary Representative Of President In Chechnya Plus Appended Statute On Powers Of President's Representative In Chechnya. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Sep 95 p 4) (2200)

Federal List Of Candidate Deputies From Conservative Party. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Sep 95 p 5) (2400)

Federal List Of Candidate Deputies From Union Of Communists. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Sep 95 p 5) (2300)

Federal List Of Candidate State Duma Deputies From 'Forward, Russia!' Bloc. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Sep 95 p 5) (5000)

Federal List Of Candidate State Duma Deputies From 'Women Of Russia' Movement. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Sep 95 p 6) (3500)

Federal List Of Candidate State Duma Deputies Nominated By National- Republican Party Of Russia. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Sep 95 p 5) (1800)

Federal List Of State Duma Candidate Deputies From Russian Party (Russkaya Partiya) Election Association. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Sep 95 p 6) (4000)

Federal List Of State Duma Candidate Deputies From Christian-Democratic Union-Christians Of Russia (KhDS-KhR) Election Association. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Sep 95 p 5) (2000)

Federal List Of State Duma Candidate Deputies From Beer Lovers' Party (PLP). (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Sep 95 p 6) (3500)

SECTION III: SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL

Government 29 July Decree No. 772 Defining Coordinates Of Sites For Landing Of Objects From Space, Plus Maj Gen Bezborodov Commentary. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Sep 95 p 4) (1000)

Regional Affairs

Reportage on Chechen Negotiations, Troop Withdrawal

No Accord on Self-Defense Units

LD1309184195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Sept 13 (INTERFAX) — The delegations of the federal authorities and Dzhokhar Dudayev failed to agree to terms Wednesday on the procedure for forming self-defense units in Chechen populated areas, as envisaged in earlier military agreements, leader of the Russian delegation Vyacheslav Mikhaylov told reporters after the talks.

This problem deserves further discussion, he said.

Meanwhile, leader of the Dudayev delegation Khozh-Akhmed Yarikhanov said that the Russian side had proposed forming self-defense units only in the populated areas which have no Chechen law-enforcement bodies.

He said this goes against the military agreements which say that self-defense units shall be formed prior to the establishment of the law-enforcement bodies.

"We categorically reject this idea," he said.

Under the military agreements, self-defense units shall be formed after the disarmament of illegal armed formations and surrender of weapons by the population. Each unit is to consist of about 25 members. The list shall be approved by local elders and, subsequently, by the co-chairmen of the special observer commission.

The talks produced an agreement on ending the surrender of "heavy combat equipment by the illegal armed formations by September 20." Neither the amount of equipment nor the place of surrender was announced.

Talks May Return to Economic Issues

LD1309184695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1752 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 13 (INTERFAX) — The peace talks in Groznyy may return to the economic package of issues as early as next week, deputy head of the Russian delegation Arkadiy Volskiy told INTERFAX in an exclusive interview Wednesday.

Russia broke the political talks with pro-Dudayev rebels in early August, saying they will be resumed once the military accord is implemented.

According to Volskiy, the final decision to resume talks will be made as soon as he has met the head of the delegation, Vyacheslav Mikhailov, due to arrive in Groznyy Thursday or Friday.

Whether all of the Russian delegation comes to Groznyy will depend on whether a roundtable conference of all warring sides and prominent Chechen politicians opens in the city next Saturday, Volskiy said.

Prior to this, the presidential representative in Chechnya, Security Council secretary Oleg Lobov, had proposed the conference discuss ways out of the crisis.

Romanov: 8,000 Troops Withdrawn

LD1309184395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Sept 13 (INTERFAX) — Russian military commander in Chechnya Anatoliy Romanov at a news conference in Groznyy on Wednesday put at about 8,000 the number of Russian troops pulled out complete with military hardware from Chechnya in the past five days. He said that trainloads of troops were sent to their permanent deployment sites.

One brigade and two regiments of interior ministry troops, a divisional headquarters, support units and a special rapid reaction force were withdrawn from an area close to Assinovskaya village between September 8 and 12.

For his part, commander of Russian interior ministry troops Nikolay Glebov in an interview with INTERFAX did not rule out the possibility of a further withdrawal of troops from other parts of the republic, "the situation permitting."

Referring to military intelligence, Romanov said that as Russia started to pull out troops from Assinovskya, "Dudayev began to build up his forces in the south, tipping the military balance in his favor again."

Deputy Secretary of Russia's Security Council Vladimir Rubanov in an interview with INTERFAX and Echo of

Moscow Radio in Groznyy stressed that federal troops were strong enough to bring provocateurs to their sense, protect civilians and restore peace to Chechnya in the event of a renewed flare up of tension there.

St. Petersburg Secures All Diplomatic Missions

LD1409111495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1103 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ST. PETERSBURG, September 14 (ITAR-TASS) — A shot from a grenade thrower made at the U.S. embassy in Moscow compelled law enforcement bodies to tighten measures for security of the U.S. Consulate-General in St. Petersburg. Urgent measures were taken to reinforce guard of all diplomatic missions accredited in St. Petersburg. ITAR-TASS learned this from a high official of St. Petersburg agency of the Federal Security Service. The essence of these measures was not revealed.

According to the information of St. Petersburg police, the number of police staffers guarding the consulate increased five times. The building is guarded around the clock not only from the facade but also from the yard.

Policemen are armed with submachine guns and special technical means helping them prevent attempts at terrorist acts. Similar measures of protection were taken regarding other consulates in the territory of St. Petersburg. Buildings where families of diplomats live are also guarded closer. Territorial police departments participate in security measures.

A source in St. Petersburg militia said that law enforcement bodies of St. Petersburg act in cooperation with the security service of the U.S. Consulate-General which also increased the numerical strength of the service. Mary Cruger, the Consul for Culture and the Press of the U.S. Consulate-General, told ITAR-TASS that the diplomatic mission in cooperation with local law enforcement bodies takes measures to strengthen its security.

Defense Ministry Rebuts Petersburg Mayor's Criticism

LD1309210495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2001 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 13 (INTERFAX) — The state has been able to set aside only 31% of budget allocations for the purchase of arms and hardware in January through August 1995, reliable sources in the Russian Defense Ministry told INTERFAX Wednesday.

The military spoke in the wake of a harsh statement by St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak who blamed the Defense Ministry for piling up a budget debt to defense enterprises.

"Due to his position, the St. Petersburg mayor should know that the Defense Ministry receives funds from the state rather than grants them to fulfill a defense order," the sources said.

The officers said the defense order was chronically underfinanced. The Defense Ministry and the General Headquarters keep raising this issue in the government, they added. "The Defense Ministry does its best to provide St. Petersburg enterprises with funds," they said.

According to the sources, regional leaders' cooperation with military contractors would be more effective than attacks on the Defense Ministry. "Various kinds of mutual reconciliation help solve many acute issues complicating the defense enterprises' socioeconomic situation," they added.

Sobchak told workers of the LOMO optical and mechanical plant in St. Petersburg Tuesday that "budget money will not come to defense complex enterprises but will instead disappear halfway, if the Defense Ministry leadership is not changed."

Fedorov Opposes Kaliningrad Demilitarization

WS1409093895 Tallinn BNS in English 1424 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kaliningrad, Sept 13, BNS — Kaliningrad cannot be demilitarized, since international security issues in Europe still remain unresolved. This opinion was expressed by MP Boris Fedorov, former Russian economics minister and leader of the political movement "Forward, Russia!", at a press conference held at the end of his visit to Kaliningrad.

After the disintegration of the Warsaw Pact, he stated, a situation developed in Europe in which NATO is approaching the borders of Russia while problems of international security remain unresolved. The growth of NATO's influence is especially visible in the Balkans. The demonstration of NATO power is also directed against Russia.

For this reason, Fedorov believes that a concentration of Russian forces should remain in the Kaliningrad region. There can be no discussion of demilitarizing the region.

Moreover, the movement "Forward, Russia!" proposes modernization of the armed forces, carrying out a reform of military training and creating a professional army.

The Kaliningrad region, Fedorov says, has a special character. He hopes that this is the place where rapid economic progress can be made. Kaliningrad could become the second most important Russian banking and financial center after Moscow since Petersburg has already missed the opportunity.

Further on Kulikov's Tour of Urals, Siberia

LD1409053995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1535 GMT 13 Sep 95

[By Larisa Kislinskaya]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow, 13 Sep (ITAR-TASS) — The Russian Interior Ministry's press service told the ITAR-TASS correspondent today that Russian Interior Minister Colonel General Anatoliy Kulikov is continuing his working visit to towns in the Urals and Siberia. Today he visited Tyumen. [passage omitted]

The minister is devoting a great deal of time to the work of permanent militia posts. In Kulikov's opinion their introduction in Tyumen will make it possible to reduce the amount of street crime. Altogether, 50,480 crimes have been committed in Tyumen region. This is 1.6 percent higher than last year's figures. [passage omitted]

The Russian Interior Ministry press service stated that the program for the minister's trip includes meetings with workers and journalists.

Tyumen Financial, Trade Company Planned

MM1409130295 Moscow IZVESTIYA (Financial Section) in Russian 14 Sep 95 p 2

[ANI report: "Tyumen Creates Financial and Trade Company"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Tyumen Oblast administration has come out with the initiative to create a financial and trading company for the fuel and energy complex of the Urals and West Siberia whose founders would be the biggest oil extracting and machine building enterprises of Siberia and the Urals region. The new trade and financial structure should assume the task of ensuring the purchase of oil extracting equipment from enterprises undergoing conversion and from machine building enterprises. It is planned that the financial volume of orders of equipment from Russian producers for 1995-1996 could be up to $700 million in West Siberia.

Urals Defense Industry Converted for Oil Equipment

MK1409080095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 13 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Mikhail Lantsman: "Urals Industrialists Have Supported a Government Conversion Program, But They Wish To Implement It Alone"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sverdlovsk Oblast Governor Eduard Rossel has become a president after all, though not of a political entity — the Urals Republic — but of an association for economic cooperation between oblasts and republics in the Urals region. The association board commissioned its president yesterday to prepare, for later approval at the federal level, a draft program on arranging the production of up-to-date equipment for the oil and gas industry, which has to be purchased abroad now, at conversion enterprises in the Urals affiliated with the military-industrial complex. Preferential taxation and customs terms should be provided for conversion enterprises that participate in re-equipping the fuel and energy complex. [passage omitted]

The problem, it seems, consists in deciding who will be in charge of federal programs — Moscow or the provinces. "Meetings with voters give me the right to claim that today people link the solution of many problems with a more independent policy of the regions," the Sverdlovsk Oblast governor said at the meeting. According to Mr. Rossel, there is no state credit and investment policy in the country, and "we are artificially destroying hundreds of enterprises capable of providing the domestic market with the most up-to-date equipment, thus saving billions of dollars for the solution of other problems." [passage omitted]

Kolesnikov, Moscow Police To Combat Market Crime

LD1309170495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1631 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Sept 13 (INTERFAX) — Russia's First Deputy Interior Minister Lieutenant-General Vladimir Kolesnikov met with the ministry and Moscow police leaders Wednesday to discuss measures to combat crime on Moscow's consumer market.

Sources in the Interior Ministry told INTERFAX that artificial barriers are being raised to block the inflow of agricultural produce to Moscow.

Checks carried out by Moscow's Consumer Market Department and by the Interior Ministry have revealed that many city markets are controlled by criminal groupings which make the owners pay for the right to sell their produce and force them to sell the produce wholesale and at lower prices, all of which causes prices to rise and markets to stay empty.

From now on, all vegetable storehouses, markets and individuals selling agricultural produce will be checked and those violating the rules of residence in Moscow punished: the first violation will incur a 30-day administrative arrest and public works, and the second one — imprisonment for up to six months.

Officials issuing residence permits in violation of the rules will be punished, too.

Checks will be made by police jointly with OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] men, special rapid-reaction units and interior troops.

These measures will be taken until agricultural-produce trade is put in order in Moscow.

Maritime Kray Without Electricity From Today

LD1409085895 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Power engineering workers in the Maritime territory began work under emergency conditions from today. (Aleksandr Ius), one of the managers of the Vladivostok-based Dalenergo joint-stock company, told ITAR-TASS that the energy workers have no other option. They have to cut power supplied to industrial and individual consumers all around the clock, with the resumption of supply for one or two hours a day. The Maritime Primorskaya hydropower station and the Vladivostok TETs-2 have completely run out of fuel oil. From today other regions of the Russian Far East have cut off power supplies to the Maritime territory because of the latter's outstanding electricity debt.

Dagestan Minister Opposes Cossack Military Units

954F3382B Nalchik SEVERNYY KAVKAZ in Russian 2 Sep 95 p 5

[Interview with Magomedsalikh Gusayev, Republic of Dagestan minister for nationalities affairs and foreign relations, by Guriya Murklinskaya; place and date not given; under the "Dialogue on the Subject" rubric: "The Kizlyar Region. A Boundary or a Segment? Magomedsalikh Gusayev Answers Our Questions in Connection With Aleksandr Elzon's Interview (SEVERNYY KAVKAZ No. 34-95)"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Murklinskaya] Magomedsalikh Magomedovich, your position differs considerably from that of Ataman Elzon. Could you please explain how in particular, and why?

[Gusayev] There are differences, and I have never tried to hide them, but they are not as profound as Mr. Elzon believes. Let me start with the items on which we (I am speaking of the Dagestan Government's position and my own) fully agree with him. The point is that we have been and are supporters of Cossack revival within the bounds envisaged by the Constitutions of the Russian Federation [RF] and its components. The Ministry for Nationalities Affairs and Foreign Relations has drafted and presented for the consideration of the Republic of Dagestan Government a draft law on rehabilitation of Lower Terek Cossacks. The problem is that we and Mr. Elzon have a different understanding of the question's substance.

When we speak of rehabilitation and revival of Cossacks, we mean first of all revival of the traditional way of life: economic forms, land use, and cultural and other aspects of life. We do not object to the creation of special structures within the Russian army that would be manned by Cossacks. We are, however, categorically against creating armed Cossack formations in Dagestan: In a multiethnic republic, the creation of multiethnic military formations will result in conflict. Chechnya is a graphic example of the creation of such formations. If armed Cossack units are created, all the large and small ethnic groups in Dagestan will start setting up their own—for self-defense. And in such situation it does not even take, as Aleksandr Semenovich puts it, pitching them against each other—a small conflagration is enough.

[Murklinskaya] The second accusation against the Dagestani Government is that because the Cossack question is still unresolved, the exodus of Russians from the republic continues.

[Gusayev] Here, again, we disagree with Mr. Elzon's position. Unlike monolingual republics—for instance, Tatarstan—by virtue of its multiethnic composition Dagestan is a Russian-speaking republic. The mass media, schools, and institutions of higher learning—everything is in Russian, as well as communication in the streets and at work. The Russian population in the republic cannot be called a diaspora—it is a native group; this is codified in the Constitution, and Russians are proportionally represented in all power structures. For fairness' sake this should have been noted. One cannot conduct a constructive dialogue when one discards and ignores the good things and concentrates attention only on one's demands.

[Murklinskaya] And the last question. What about extremism and the redrawing of Dagestan's borders?

[Gusayev] One of the main provisions of the RF Constitution is the territorial integrity and inviolability of Russian borders and those of federation components. I can add from myself that if there is something upholding peace in the Caucasus, credit should mainly go to this provision in the Constitution. The Cossacks frequently say that defending Russian borders is their sacred duty. Nobody argues with this. But why draw these borders inside Russia, cutting off a rather large part—populated by Russians, by the way? Would it not be better to defend the official border of the Russian Federation, which in the south now coincides with the Dagestani border, and do it as part of the Russian border troops, in keeping with the current Constitution?

Regarding my words about Elzon's extremist views. The modern Russian language dictionary defines an extremist as a person with extreme views. A person calling for a recarving of borders in the current situation is a person with the most extreme views. I have great respect for Aleksandr Semenovich. We have discussed all these questions many times in personal conversations. I think that on second thought he will agree with me on many points and perhaps we will even find forms of cooperation more acceptable for all sides.

Novosibirsk Socioeconomic Development Reviewed

954F3385A Novosibirsk VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK in Russian 4 Sep 95 p 3

[Unattributed economic report: "The City Is Like an Island—Surrounded by Problems on All Sides: Socioeconomic Development of Novosibirsk in January-June 1995"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic development of the city over the first half of the year was determined by the following factors:

—great dependence of the dynamics of industrial production on the state of affairs in the fuel and energy complex;
—reduction in production investments;
—lowered standard of living of the populace, with prices of goods and services impossible to avoid increasing at accelerated rates: rents, rates for municipal services, cost of medicines, transportation, and the services of children's institutions.

As a result of this and a number of other reasons (including those of a political nature), the main economic and social indices for the city in January-June 1995 took shape as follows.

The Decline Is Slowing Down—Production Cannot Drop Any Farther

Analysis of the main economic indicators shows that the decline in industrial production is slowing down. Over the period January-June 1995, production levels for the city in general fell 7.7 percent. The drop in production level for the same period last year was 36.4 percent.

As compared with the period January-June 1994, production output this year increased at 83 enterprises (38.6 percent of the total number of large and mid-size city enterprises). In this regard, over 10 percent of the production growth was observed at 65 city enterprises. At the same time, the number of enterprises showing reduced production volumes is still great.

Reduced volumes of industrial production output were recorded during the first half of 1995 at 96 enterprises (44.7 percent of city enterprises).

The nonstate sector is beginning to play an ever-increasing role among enterprises of various forms of ownership. By the end of the first half of the year, 160 enterprises (74.4 percent of the number of mid-size enterprises of the city) had altered their form of ownership—these enterprises accounted for more than 52 percent of the total production volume (this index was 42 percent in the first half of 1994).

When we analyze the advantages of one form or another of ownership, we see that the most effective operation in the nonstate sector, from the results of the first half of the year, was observed at private enterprises, where 59 of them produced 33 percent of the total output, amounting to 455.2 billion rubles [R].

Increased production volumes were observed only in two sectors: nonferrous metallurgy—by 45.1 percent, and flour-grinding, cereals, and mixed fodders industry—by 17.9 percent. The greatest reduction took place at enterprises of the chemical industry, where production volume decreased by almost a third. The reduction for the remaining base sectors averaged 10-20 percent, including a 14.8-percent drop in machine-building output.

A relative slow-down in the rate of production decline by the outset of the second half of the year was caused primarily by the somewhat more effective activity of the industrial complex in June. It is during this period that production output volume increased by 13.4 percent over June 1994 levels, and by 82.2 percent over the level recorded in May of this year.

The positive shift is most likely caused not by a one-time spurt, but rather by gradual efforts, as indicated by results over the six-month period. For example, production output in machine building increased 50 percent over the level for the same period last year.

Enterprises and organizations of the city have intensified their export shipments. The lead here is held by the joint-stock companies Novosibirsk Tin Works and Tyazhstankogidropress, and the open-variety joint-stock companies Novosibirsk Chemical Concentrates Plant and Elsib.

A new type of foreign economic activity is developing at a rapid rate—the provision of various kinds of services. Mainly these involve passenger services, air transportation, freight shipments, travel agencies, and tourist hotel services which, in addition to attracting funds to the budget, provide a stimulus for development of the entire city infrastructure. International Siberian fairs are also of no minor significance.

Few Investments, But Housing Is Being Built

The trend towards decline is being maintained in the construction industry.

Volume of capital investments decreased 16 percent from the level for the same period of last year, amounting to R431.5 billion. Departments of the mayor's office used R86.2 billion—71 percent of the target for the first half of the year and 20 percent of the total volume of capital investments. A significant increase was seen in the share of production facilities (27 percent)—thermal power facilities and construction of the metro. Enterprise funds remain the main source of investment activity, comprising 60 percent in the first half of 1994, while the share of funds from the federal budget decreased from 22 to 19 percent.

Some R152 billion was invested in housing construction.

In January-June 1995, 3,200 apartments were commissioned in Novosibirsk through all sources of financing, totalling 191,400 square meters in area—2.6 times greater than the volume commissioned during the same period last year. Actual housing rental amounted to 71.4 percent of the target figure. Some 16 percent of the total volume of commissioned housing was place in operation using federal budget funds, 10 percent—using local budget funds. Twice as much housing was commissioned using mayoral funds than was the case for the same period of last year.

Fundamental attention is being devoted to the resolution of housing problems for socially unprotected segments of the populace. Documents are presently being drawn up for the allocation of housing to employees of budget organizations. The program envisages construction of 500 apartments, 70 percent of which will be paid for by the city.

Results of the housing program for war veterans have been tabulated. It had been planned to allocate 50 apartments, but this figure in fact increased to 80 over the half-year period.

The situation in the construction sector remains difficult. The financial state of organizations constructing city facilities is complicated by the fact of unregulated reciprocal settlements in the economy. The deficit with respect both to budget and enterprise funds for the first half of 1995 amounted to 50 percent of the value of contract work completed.

But despite the chronic shortage of money, we are still managing to construct socially significant facilities.

The kindergarten in Zayeltsovskiy Rayon was converted to the Sineglazka Children's Rehabilitation Center. This facility is outfitted with unique equipment from Great Britain, and is the only one of its kind in Russia to treat children with psycho-neurological illnesses.

A 139-bed diagnostic center was placed in operation for the Clinical Immunology Institute.

Mayoral funds were used to commission 4,700 meters of gravity-flow reservoir outside the city and 2,600 meters of water pipeline along Pavlov Street in Mochishche. Replacing the antiquated conduit, this pipeline is 500 millimeters in diameter and is equipped with a powerful pumping station. Now the settlement is fully supplied with drinking water.

Metro Gaining Prestige

A reduction from last year's levels is being observed in ground-transportation passenger volume in connection with this year's increased rates for city transportation. In January-June 1995, 100 million passengers travelled by bus in the city, 96 million—by streetcar and trolley, 5 percent less than during the first half of 1994. Some 56 million individuals used the metro, almost the same passenger volume as last year.

About 9,000 telephone numbers were installed in the city since the beginning of the year. This is twice last year's level. Apartment telephones account for 95 percent of the new numbers. Nonetheless, provision of telephone service to the populace remains a critical problem. We are managing to complete only the most necessary jobs. For example, 547 apartment telephones were installed for veterans of the Great Patriotic War and internationalist military servicemen (the program envisaged 200).

Market Sector Acquires Influence

Structural transformations continue to take place in the city. The market sector is increasing in size. The forms of ownership of enterprises and organizations continue to change, and newly created enterprises of various organizational-legal forms continue to be registered. As of 1 July 1995, there were 33,500 taxpaying enterprises in the city that transferred R482 billion in profits tax to the budget. The number of enterprises grew by 938 since the beginning of the year. The proportion of state enterprises decreased somewhat—from 3 to 2.6 percent. At the same time, the amount of profits tax paid to the budget by state enterprises did not diminish.

As before, the joint-stock company enjoys greatest popularity as an organizational-legal form. As of 1 July of this year, there were more than 20,000 joint-stock companies in Novosibirsk. These accounted for 60 percent of the total number of enterprises and over 70 percent of the profits-tax payments.

The system of finance and credit institutions has basically been formed. Most developed among the participants in the financial system of Novosibirsk are banks, insurance companies, and investment companies. Whereas there were 44 banks as of 1 January 1993 (including branches of banks based in other cities), their number increased to 81 as of 1 July 1995. In 1993 there were fewer than 10 insurance organizations. Today 120 of these and 90 investment companies are in operation.

Economic Issues

Yeltsin Agrees With Russian Banks' Proposals

LD1309200495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1915 GMT 13 Sep 95

[Report by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin; from the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: No. 175 (919)]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Boris Yeltsin agreed with most proposals made by the Association of Russian Banks at a meeting he had with heads of large companies and the ARB, sources in the president's entourage told INTERFAX.

An official document to this effect was received by the ARB recently.

An ARB official said that the president gave Anatoliy Chubays, first deputy prime minister, and Tatiana Paramonova, acting Central Bank of Russia chairperson, until September 30 to draft, jointly with the ARB, a decision on every item in the proposals.

Experts do not rule out the possibility of setting up a permanent advisory body reporting to the Central Bank of Russia on which the presidential headquarters, the government headquarters, the Finance and Economy Ministers, the State Tax Inspectorate, the Russian Precious Metal Committee and the ARB will be represented.

Finance Ministry Proposes Federal Budget Changes

MK1409104195 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 14 Sep 95 p 1

[AFI report: "The Russian Federation Finance Ministry Proposes That the 1995 Budget Be Adjusted"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Federation Finance Ministry submitted to the government its proposals on having some expense items of the 1995 federal budget adjusted. According to a Finance Ministry official, these adjustments need to be made, first of all, in view of the decision to index salaries of state employees. This will require about 13 trillion rubles. In addition, the budget needs to be adjusted in connection with funding restoration of the economy in Chechnya.

Davydov, U.K. Minister Hold Talks on Sakhalin Oil

MK1409140295 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 14 Sep 95 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Russia and Great Britain Have Held Negotiations on Power Engineering Matters. Oleg Davydov and Tim Eggar Have Discussed Problems of Developing Sakhalin Shelf"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, Oleg Davydov, Russian Federation deputy premier and minister for foreign economic relations, held, in his words, "very substantial and fruitful negotiations" with Tim Eggar, UK secretary of state for industry and energy [title as published]. They discussed prospects for large-scale cooperation between both countries in the field of power engineering. The deputy premier said that this cooperation presently covers the areas of oil and gas exploration, production, transportation, and processing. Such large British companies as British Petroleum, British Gas, and Rolls Royce are now successfully working on implementing joint projects in Russia. Mr. Davydov said that during the British minister's visit the sides have agreed on the participation of British companies, jointly with the Russian "Gazprom" joint-stock company, in the reconstruction of outdated compressor stations in Russia. Oleg Davydov and Tim Eggar discussed the prospects for greater participation by British companies in developing natural fuel resources on Sakhalin island and its shelf.

According to the head of the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry, the negotiations also dealt with other major projects outside the power engineering field. Great Britain is ready to take part in large investment projects in Russia worth a total of $15-20 billion. Specifically, this includes an investment credit of $101.8 million to be given by London for reconstructing and building a railway station complex in St. Petersburg.

In Oleg Davydov's opinion, trade and economic relations between Moscow and London are steadily developing. In 1994, trade turnover between the two countries reached $5.8 billion, with Russian imports and exports being $4.9 billion and $0.9 billion, respectively. Over the first six months of this year, the volume of Russian-British trade has reached $2.2 billion, which is somewhat higher than last year's figure.

Daily: Moscow Bread Price Increase 'Unavoidable'

MK1409080195 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 13 Sep 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Bread Prices To Rise 1.5-Fold by Year's End"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The price of bread made from this year's grain will go up 1.5-fold compared to the current level. Moreover, we were told at the Pricing Policy Administration of the Moscow Government that the forecast under which bread prices will rise 40-50 percent is considered one of the most optimistic predictions. In fact, this year milling enterprises will start buying wheat at world prices. In the meantime, Moscow has concluded most of its contracts with Kazakhstan.

In order to avoid a drastic price hike, bakeries will mix new-harvest wheat with old reserves. Nonetheless, by December-January, when old grain completely runs out, a considerable price increase will become unavoidable.

Labor Minister Cautious on Prospects for Growth

MK1309133095 Moscow KOMMERSANT in Russian No. 33, 12 Sep 95 p 13

[Unattributed interview with Labor Minister Gennadiy Melikyan; place and date not given: "Economic Results Have Become a Subject of Political Discussion"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [KOMMERSANT] How far can one trust official statistics, which over the past several months have recorded a growth in industrial production?

[Melikyan] Growth has continued into its third month in a row now. Preliminary data for August indicate that there was small growth even during that month. This is not falsification: Nobody engages in it now.

The real questions lie elsewhere. First, to what extent is this growth stable, and how far have we changed our economic trajectory? Second, from what level did this growth begin? Given that compared to 1990, it has been more than halved, this upsurge so far does not mean that tomorrow everything in the country will be fine and that people will start living a better life. I believe that so far there are no grounds for stating confidently that we have bottomed out and that an industrial upswing has begun.

[KOMMERSANT] What is your lack of confidence based on?

[Melikyan] Unfortunately, up to and including September (after September, I think, the situation will begin to change), internal demand was extremely pent-up. And because internal demand was pent-up, trade turnover on the consumer market fell. And it fell quite substantially — not by 1-2 percent but by 8-12 percent. This is a great deal. I do not think that under these circumstances there can be a stable upswing. If the population has no money to buy goods, the economy will never be able to advance in a consistent way. Here we obviously overdid it at some stage, having frozen the incomes of the bulk of the population.

[KOMMERSANT] Does this mean that monetary policy should be loosened up a bit?

[Melikyan] I think there should be no rushing to extremes: This is simply dangerous; I remain an advocate of a tight line in monetary policy. Of course, growth could be consolidated even now — with some financial infusions. The economy would then advance slightly. Such approaches are possible, but then pretty soon inflation will accelerate. Although I continue to maintain that even today we are trying to suppress a certain background inflation level not caused by purely monetary measures, only by compressing monetary incomes. But in our context this tight course is somewhat strange. We squeeze what is easy to squeeze. For instance, if it is possible not to finance the defense order, it is not financed. Salaries to doctors and teachers can be held back, and they are held back. But it is impossible to be tough selectively.

[KOMMERSANT] How will a tightening of policy with respect to the fuel and energy sector affect business activity? After all, the money from Gazprom's stabilization fund effectively supported many of the country's machine-building enterprises.

[Melikyan] This stabilization fund has not disappeared completely. This money exists in reality, but elsewhere, not in Gazprom. And as long as it exists, there will be demand. If this money goes to the budget, the budget will spend more. The budget will spend more, and the defense workers, for instance, will get a state order. A paid-up state order, too. This in its turn means that someone will commission the military-industrial complex to do something, and workers will be paid their wages. Therefore, it is wrong to say that once we have abolished Gazprom's stabilization fund, the capacity of the domestic market will shrink. Demand has simply shifted.

'Gazprom' Seen Jeopardizing IMF Loan, Budget

MM1309143795 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Irina Savvateyeva: "Talks With IMF Stumble Over Gas Pipeline"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On Friday [8 September], when this issue was being prepared for printing, the government sent IMF directors the traditional report on the situation in Russia, on the basis of which they will make their decision on the advisability of giving Russia the next tranche of a $6-billion loan.

There are sufficient grounds for believing that problems could arise with the loan: The Russian Government is not meeting its commitments to eliminate the concessions and privileges on whose basis the "Gazprom" Russian joint-stock company's stabilization fund is formed.

However, some privileges have nonetheless been removed. The excise duty on gas will be increased, but not to 35 percent, as proposed, but to 30 percent. As regards the concessions associated with the stabilization fund's formation, the income side itself remains exempt: "Gazprom" will continue to keep the difference between the export and the domestic price of gas. But it will lose the concession associated with deductions from the product's cost price.

Thus gas industry workers are keeping two-thirds of the stabilization fund.

The scheme adopted as a result will provides the budget with an additional 1.8 trillion rubles [R] before the end of the year. The scheme, which was initially proposed by the Economics Ministry, has guaranteed an additional R3.5 trillion.

In order to maintain its course for a tough anti-inflation policy the government must find additional sources of income amounting to 1 percent of gross domestic product before the end of the year. That is, R7 trillion. If "Gazprom" could cover 3.5 of them the problem would be solved. But if gas industry workers provide less than 2 trillion the government will have nothing with which to cover the remaining difference.

It is entirely possible that the IMF will "cave in" and give Russia the next tranche of the loan, reconciling itself to the privileges of "Gazprom." But Russia will still face the problem of funding the budget. And it will face another, more serious problem in the strategic respect — the problem of mutual relations between the state and the all-powerful monopolist.

The philosophy that is now being espoused by "Gazprom" leader Rem Vyakhirev on the pages of newspapers (which, incidentally, he himself finances) and which forms the basis of the joint-stock company's entire activity is far from indisputable. We promptly deliver heat, gas, and light to your homes, Vyakhirev likes to repeat, so our interests are your interests. The rest seemingly follows by itself, between the lines: Of course, nobody knows better than we experienced gas industry workers what these interests are. So do not interfere! Do not interfere with your checks, advice, criticism, and opinions. Do not hinder our work! It seems that in the eyes of the country's chief gas industry worker everybody who dares not to express themselves on the gas sector's needs in the traditionally encouraging spirit of "for you, for us, for gas" is an accomplice of "Western and domestic capital" and virtually an enemy of the people.

But getting away from figurative generalizations and putting aside emotions, it must be acknowledged that for the Russian people the fact that the fate of the country's richest gas reserves is in the hands of an administration which, although very big, is nonetheless one individual company — "Gazprom" — is by no means such an indisputably good thing. In fact, what is the essence of "Gazprom's" financial policy, which naturally stems from its official philosophy? We will not give money to the budget because we do not have any to spare — we need to invest.

"Gazprom" does not want to take up external sources of funding for its own development. Its representatives say: That is too expensive for us. But maybe the problem here is more likely that the moneylender will not give it just like that — he will give it for a certain program. It cannot be ruled out that he will ask: Why, when there is excess supply on the gas market, pour gigantic sums of money into exploring Yamal? Is it not more effective to invest much smaller sums in resource-saving technologies so that the gas already extracted does not leak from pipes and does not burn away in jets?

Incidentally, absolutely the same is being said not only by the representatives of "Western and domestic capital" whom Vyakhirev dislikes but also by absolutely unbiased "Gazprom" competitors, who are very competent people — scientists and architects of Russia's energy strategy. Thus, following the logic of "we will not give money to the budget which is needed for investment," "Gazprom" is effectively taking its production strategy not only out of the state's control but also out of the market's control. But lack of control is a dangerous thing even for the most professional people.

PRAVDA Criticizes Minister's Economic Viewpoint

MM1309143095 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
12 Sep 95 p 3

[Report by Stanislav Menshikov: "I Asked Yasin... Thoughts After the Russian Minister's Visit"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Rotterdam — Russian Economics Minister Yevgeniy Yasin has paid a short unofficial visit to the Netherlands. He was on a "working vacation," as they say: In addition to seeing the sights he met with colleagues from the government here, gave several interviews, and spoke at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam. Dutch newspapermen preferred him to Gorbachev, whom they find really boring now: Unlike Gorbachev, Yasin behaved modestly, he did not travel around in a motorcade, he refrained from making empty speeches, and he did not shed crocodile tears over socialism, a factor of no small importance. Dutch conservatives liked that.

When asked by the business newspaper NRC HANDELSBLAD what influence the reformers wield in the Kremlin, Yasin gave an assurance that they are united "from Chernomyrdin to Chubays" and it is this factor that gives them their strength. The Economics Minister said that he meets with Yeltsin himself often and is on close personal terms with Korzhakov. He sighed and complained that work is difficult: "The economic situation is difficult both for the people and the politicians. It would be an illusion to believe," the minister explained, "that it is possible to achieve financial stabilization without reducing production and lowering the living standard." The people do not like that and are increasingly listening to the left-wing opposition, the Communists, who want to alleviate the social consequences of the reforms. Nevertheless, Yasin expressed confidence that the Communists "will never win the elections." He probably thinks that people will meekly heed those who initially vowed to "sacrifice their own lives" but then sacrificed the economy instead. If so then he is in for a deep disappointment. Don't count your chickens before they're hatched — and politically speaking the day of reckoning in Russia will be next December.

That is also when it will be necessary to foot the bill for the "stabilization" that only exists on paper. Whichever way you work it out, this year price growth will average at least 8 percent a month. The banking crisis, which does nothing for the cause of stabilization, is threatening to make inflation even worse on the eve of the elections. The "currency band" has hit the competitiveness of Russian industry and threatens to aggravate the slump in production. The talk about "successes" in the fight against inflation is just a joke. After all, the reform team began by fanning the flames of inflation itself and it was only later that it got down to "stabilization" — however, it didn't so much fight the fire as pull down the charred remains of the house. But Yevgeniy Grigoryevich kept quiet about that in the belief that the Dutch have a short memory when it comes to events in far-off Russia.

Speaking at the university, Professor Yasin was more cautious, aware that the majority of Western specialists take a pessimistic view of the situation in our economy. In this speech he talked about the wholesale decline in production, the crisis in agriculture, the sharp fall in real incomes and the growth of poverty, the degradation of the technological base, and losses in education and culture. "Things are bad," he asserted. But then he launched into the traditional refrain: It is the Communists to blame for the fact that the country is at the end of its tether and for making it "impossible to keep the situation in check." As though they, and not Gaydar, freed prices without doing the groundwork first, abolished the plan at a stroke without creating a real market, allowed state property to be plundered, and plunged the economy into such an abyss of inefficiency and ruin that by comparison even the "delights" of the command economy now seem to many people like a "paradise lost."

It is not only the left wing but virtually the whole of Russian economic science in the academy and the universities which have risen up in opposition to the government. Yasin, however, who was raised in the academy, has now opted to join the "oh, life is so hard" brigade in the Kremlin, the ministries, the banks, the Gazproms of this world, and the other "Our Home" people who have grown rich from the conflagration of reform. As he put it, he thought about things and came to the conclusion that there is no other way of carrying out the painful surgery on the economy than by using the saw of monetarism. "Inflation in a scientific sense," he stated, "is of no interest whatsoever. It only takes political will to conquer it." Do you remember who said "There are no such strongholds...?" He was speaking about will — it was Iosif Vissarionovich [Stalin].

At this point, I admit, I could not stand any more and I asked Yasin: Is there anyone who does not know that Russian inflation is not just a monetary factor, that it has causes such as monopolies, barriers to competition, and the cranking up of production costs? Is that really not reason enough to abandon pure monetarism and take a different path? In an economy 50 percent or more of which is standing idle because of a sales crisis you cannot cut incomes even further instead of stimulating public demand and encouraging capital investments, can you? That is what Western governments do in a crisis because they dare not ignore the voters' interests. Why are Yasin and his colleagues so keen to heed Friedman and Sachs rather than Keynes, why do they ignore what the leading lights of foreign economic science are offering today? Why do they treat us like idiots?

Yasin's answer was disappointing. After conceding that he did not express himself very well when he said that inflation was "of no interest scientifically," the minister asserted that non-monetary factors play only a small role in explaining the causes of our inflation and that "surplus money" is the root of the whole problem. Putting it simply, this inflation is not due to the fact that our Russian monopolies with the mafia's help are cranking up prices but to the fact that millions of workers, employees, and peasants are waiting to be paid in full and on time, as happened under Soviet power. The situation is absurd: There is supposed to be too much money in the country but most people do not have the wherewithal to buy goods. Enterprises are finding it hard to sell their output but prices are not falling, instead they are rising. That does not happen in a normal economy. The minister-professor's arguments do not make sense.

The government, Yasin explained, is trying very hard to develop competition but this is a long-term undertaking and its scope is limited. Thus it has opened up the country to foreign goods. That is an input, that is the market way. But access to the market is closed for our own goods, the government cannot do anything there because it is not right to interfere with the market mechanism, apparently. I am not against Keynes, he said, or the stimulation of incomes but that will have to come later — when inflation stops. In short, it's going to be a long wait yet. So until then just keep on tightening your belt until the day you die, perhaps.

On the matter of Keynesianism I was supported by a Mr. Driebek of the Unilever company who attended the lecture. He cited an example from his own Russian experience. The concern bought the "Severnoye Sviyaniye" perfume factory in St. Petersburg and began producing perfumes, eau de cologne, and so forth to its own formulas but for reasons of economy wanted to buy the flasks for these products locally. But the Russian glass works turned down this potentially lucrative order preferring to produce vodka bottles instead. Because nowadays vodka costs the same as milk in Russia, which is unparalleled in any market economy. Taxes are too high and there is no available circulating capital. If the Russian Government and Mr. Yasin in particular were to intervene actively and help their producers, as they do in the Netherlands and throughout the world, that would be Keynesianism in action.

The minister seemed to ignore these words. Our light industry, he complained, is "uncompetitive." The government tried to help the textile industry with cotton, he said, but corruption prevented it: the cotton was resold abroad. So there is a lack of political will for a resolute struggle against the mafia. It is far easier to hold back pay and pensions because the people will put up with anything, the argument runs. But trying to run a market economy by monetarist methods and the distribution of subsidies to corrupt officials and wheeler-dealers is like driving a car along a mountain road with only your left hand on the steering wheel. You will not get far that way. The point is not that there is no money in the exchequer but that it is not being used correctly.

Replying to journalists the minister bragged that "Russia is no longer producing unwanted goods" now as happened under Soviet power. Probably what he had in mind was military production but deciding what is surplus to requirements there and what is not is no easy matter. Do we really not need home-produced grain, butter, meat, textiles, crockery, and television sets, production of which has slumped to a disastrously low level? Or fuel, steel, aluminum, nickel, aircraft, engines, unique high technology products, and much else created by Soviet people's technical genius? Is it not the height of cynicism to stifle Russian industry and deprive the majority of people of their pay and then declare both goods and people to be unwanted?

After the discussion at the university I spoke with the visitor one on one. It seemed to me that he is not such an optimist as he makes out in public. After all, we have not been in charge very long, he said as though in self-justification, just give us time, you cannot do everything overnight. We would give them time if we were talking about some laboratory experiment. But monetarist experiments cost the people and the country too much. Russia has had it up to here with them. And Russia would be right if it called a halt to the corruption and robbery that it has tolerated until now.

International Affairs

Marchuk Reaffirms Ukraine's Non-Aligned Status

LD1309205695 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The main task for Ukraine is to avoid turning into a buffer between NATO and non-NATO countries, Ukrainian Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk told journalists on Wednesday. Everything must be carefully considered before we take a stance in relation to the alliance, he said. He added that even the most difficult episodes in politics provide no reason to regard Ukraine as a supporter of this or that political bloc.

Ukraine, as a non-aligned country, stands on its own with regard to issues concerning military alliances, the prime minister said. Its participation in the NATO Partnership for Peace program by no means involves consulting NATO on every action, he added. We must carefully analyze every development now taking place in Yugoslavia, NATO, and Russia, and only then plan long-term actions aimed at qualitative changes in our position regarding NATO, Marchuk said.

The Ukrainian Government leader said he was planning to meet his Russian counterpart, Viktor Chernomyrdin, in October to discuss the Black Sea Fleet problem. There is every chance now, as much as before, to reach a final settlement on this issue, he said. For the time being, we have proposed that our expert groups would meet to coordinate the two draft agreements on the Black Sea Fleet, particularly on the problem of payments and the Sevastopol issue, to avoid wasting time on issues which have not yet been given expert appraisal, the prime minister said. He stressed that the experts will need to find a common denominator, be it even a conventional one, for the two rival drafts prior to his meeting with Chernomyrdin.

Kravchuk: Ukraine Must Balance Between Russia, West

LD1309202195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1824 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Sept 13 (INTERFAX-UKRAINE) - Former Ukrainian president Leonid Kravchuk said on Wednesday the only foreign policy option for Ukraine was to balance between Russia and the West.

"The main difficulty (in Ukraine's relations with Russia) is the mentality of the Russian leadership, which still does not see Ukraine as an equal partner in the International arena," Kravchuk told a news conference, commenting on talks between Kiev and Moscow on the Black Sea Fleet problem.

However, he expressed optimism about all future negotiations with Russia, including on the fleet issue. All the problems "will be solved step by step, and that is an objective necessity."

The ex-president called on parliament to urgently bring out a law on the status of foreign military bases on Ukrainian territory, for "that will give the executive branch of government the necessary basis for negotiations."

"Russia, whether Ukraine likes it or not, is not going to leave Ukraine outside the sphere of its interests and will do all it can to have Ukraine follow the lead of Russian politics," Kravchuk said.

Kuchma on Russian Relations, NATO, Military Bloc

WS1309115295 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0059 GMT 13 Sep 95

[Report by Halia Pavliva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Sept. 12 — President Leonid Kuchma denied Tuesday [12 September] that Ukraine's recent overtures to NATO would complicate its relationship with Russia.

The president said that the relationship between the two former Soviet republics should be unaffected by possible NATO expansion and reacted negatively to Russian President Boris Yeltsin's recent statement that he would seek to form an opposing military bloc should the western alliance choose to expand.

Kuchma was also critical of Russia's role in the Yugoslavian conflict, saying that Ukraine's big northern neighbor has lost much of its authority in the world as a result of its short-sighted policies.

"If a policy of not seeing real partners in a such a countries as Ukraine continues in the future, the situation will get no better, but worse," he said.

Kuchma also sought to reassure Russia that, due to its official non-aligned policy, Ukraine would refrain from joining NATO for the time being.

"As president, I must care first of all that laws are to be obeyed, and, according to our laws, Ukraine is a non-bloc state," he said. "We will continue follow this course in the future, although, as I have said, not for a long time," he said. "That it is too heavy a burden in a such a situation, when we are a bit pressed from every side."

Kuchma also added that much of the flak originating from Russian politicians is being caused by the imminence of elections in the Russian Federation, citing, however, his Tuesday meeting with St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak as evidence "that Russia wants to keep peaceful and good neighborly relations with Ukraine."

Defense Minister Hails NATO Commander's Kiev Visit

LD1309174995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1735 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Sept 13 (INTERFAX) — Ukrainian Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov has praised the visit to Kiev by NATO Supreme Commander in Europe Colonel-General Hans Hansen.

During his Tuesday meeting with Hansen the minister stressed that the visit assumes special significance before the presentation of Ukraine's individual program of cooperation with NATO in Brussels.

"This is a considerable step forward to political and military integration", Shmarov said.

Hansen thanked the Ukrainian side for the warm welcome and asked Shmarov to regard his visit as part of the NATO Partnership for Peace program, as an instrument for implementing the program.

Delegation Leaves For NATO Council Session

LD1309195195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1824 GMT 13 Sep 95

i[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Sept 13 (INTERFAX-UKRAINE) — On September 13, the Ukrainian governmental delegation led by Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko has left for Brussels to attend a special meeting of the NATO council.

According to the press center of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry, the NATO council session is devoted to the issue of extending cooperation between NATO and Ukraine. Ukraine intends to present a program of individual partnership with NATO within the Partnership for Peace program.

In the course of his stay in Brussels, Udovenko will meet with Belgium's Foreign Minister.

Council of Europe To Open Kiev Office

WS1309124295 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0059 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Sept. 12 — Ukraine's membership in the Council of Europe is not yet approved, but the organization is scheduled to open its tenth information and documentation center in Kiev Wednesday [13 September]. The opening ceremony, to be held at 12 p.m. in the Ukrainian House, will be attended by Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk, Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko and Daniel Tarshis, the Council's general secretary.

Before the ceremony Tarshis will meet President Leonid Kuchma and Parliament Speaker Oleksandr Moroz to discuss prospects for Ukraine's entry into the Council, which is on the agenda of the group's Parliament Assembly Sept. 26 meeting in Strasbourg.

Further on Israeli Prime Minister's Visit

LD1209135795 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1320 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Borispol Airport — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said on arriving in Kiev that his visit to Ukraine will promote the further development of bilateral relations between the countries.

He also noted that both countries have prospects for cooperation in many areas, particularly technical ones. According to Yitzhaq Rabin, a settlement of the situation in the Middle East should facilitate this.

At the airport Yitzhaq Rabin was met by Ukrainian Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk; Valeriy Pustovoytenko, minister to the cabinet of ministers; Foreign Affairs Minister Hennadiy Udovenko; and Israeli Ambassador to Ukraine Tzvi Magen.

Moroz Confers With Rabin on Cooperation

LD1309132195 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0900 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kiev — "The Ukrainian parliament is prepared to cooperate with Israel and will do everything possible to satisfy the common interests of both countries," Oleksandr Moroz, chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Council, said today during a meeting with Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

The head of the parliament is convinced that Ukraine and Israel have prospects for cooperation in areas of high technology, electronics, the production of medical equipment, pharmaceuticals, and polygraphy. The sides agree that the priority in developing the economy should be the aim of supporting its own production. [passage omitted]

On behalf of the Israeli Knesset, Yitzhaq Rabin invited Oleksandr Moroz to pay an official visit to Israel.

President Kuchma Meets Rabin

LD1309142995 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1215 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — During a meeting with Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, the Ukrainian president noted that the visit by the Israeli guest confirms the aspirations of official Tel Aviv to strengthen relations between the two countries. According to Leonid Kuchma, the visit to Israel by Ukraine's Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk, which is to take place shortly, will also promote an improvement in bilateral talks. Yitzhaq Rabin stressed the necessity of laying a legal basis in mutual relations between Kiev and Tel Aviv. According to him, Ukraine and Israel have various approaches to the ratification of interstate documents which is creating certain obstacles, in particular, in the area of economic cooperation. The Israeli prime minister said that he had spoken about his problem in detail with the Ukrainian parliament Speaker Oleksandr Moroz. Yitzhaq Rabin also considers that it would be expedient to sign an agreement with Ukraine on avoiding double taxation.

Rabin Satisfied With Peace Process

LD1309143495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1328 GMT 13 Sep 95

[By Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, September 13 (ITAR-TASS) — Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Rabin, currently paying a two-day official visit to Ukraine, is satisfied with the progress of the peace process in the Middle East. During his talk with Speaker of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Oleksandr Moroz here today, he said that "Israel comes out for the gradual transformation of the Gaza Strip and the Left Bank first into an autonomous Palestinian state, and then into an independent country". The Israeli Premier also said that his "government will actively contribute to this process".

In Rabin's view, favourable conditions are now emerging in the Middle East for settling conflictual situations by peaceful means. He said that Israel would seek compromises with the Palestinians in order to draw up agreements, which will suit both sides. "We do not lay claim to any Palestinian territories, but we want this problem to resolved by civilised means," Rabin stressed.

The Israel Premier will meet Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma today.

Rabin Interviewed on Mutual Cooperation

WS1409085695 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 12 Sep 95

[Interview with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, by Vasyl Meterchuk in Kiev on 12 September — recorded; Rabin speaks in Hebrew with superimposed translation into Ukrainian]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Meterchuk] The Israeli prime minister's first visit to Ukraine is of a great significance for us. However, relations between Ukraine and Israel have their own history. They were initiated virtually on the same day when Ukraine acquired independence. How do you currently assess the state of our relationship?

[Rabin] You were right saying that diplomatic relations between Israel and Ukraine were initiated back in 1991. However, at that time Ukraine was engaged in developing its statehood and carrying out reform. We, too, were engaged in the peacemaking process and absorbed a great number of newly repatriated persons, who were mostly arriving from Ukraine. At the same time, I believe that we have a very solid foundation for developing our relations. However, to maintain relations in various spheres we need some sort of a legal basis. This means we need to expand the system of treaties and agreements in the fields of social services, health protection, commerce, industries, agriculture, joint projects, and the like. All this should be done; we should lay a foundation for the legal solidification of all those agreements.

[Meterchuk] Here, we practically have a broad field for developing a system of legally binding agreements. What documents already exist and what documents are you going to sign during your first visit to Ukraine?

[Rabin] There are 16 interstate, intergovernmental, and interdepartmental documents. We are going to sign four agreements. The first is the memorandum on liberalizing trade, given that no serious businessmen will be able to work here in Ukraine if they do not have a legal basis for their activities. On what grounds would they ship their products or render services? This is a very important agreement. Then there is an agreement in the field of health protection and an agreement on visa-free entry for diplomats. Today we will also sign an important document — a statement by the two governments that will explain certain issues of our bilateral relations. In particular, we are going to express our support for the peace process in our region, announce our common vision of domestic and foreign policies of the two states. Thus, those are very important frameworks which will facilitate initiating full-fledged relations between our countries. In general, we would like to actively develop those kinds of relations.

[Meterchuk] People in Ukraine are happy to observe the normalization of the situation in the Near East, and in this regard the world community owes much to you personally. Of course, the development of the peacemaking process in the Near East will be accompanied by changes in relations between our states in the economic, political, and cultural fields. What role would you assign to Ukraine in light of its geopolitical situation? Will our state be able to find a place on Near East markets and to cooperate normally with the countries in your region?

[Rabin] Hundreds of billions of dollars worth of military industry products are currently sold in the Near East. Russia is perhaps the only state that has higher military expenditures. The situation will probably remain unchanged for another couple of years. However, in my opinion, if at least a small portion of those funds was used for peaceful purposes, all those who would arrive in our markets would be able to sell their products and make profits. As for Ukraine, everything depends primarily on you. The main thing is to have something for sale on those markets.

INTELNEWS Reviews Rabin Visit, Departure

WS1409083795 Kiev INTELNEWS in English
0115 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Valeriy Druzhenko, "Special to INTELNEWS"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Sept. 13 — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin wrapped up a two-day visit to Ukraine Tuesday by signing several trade and diplomatic agreements.

Rabin departed for Moscow Tuesday evening, where he will attempt to get information from the Russians on their plans to sell nuclear reactor and fuel supplies to Iran — an issue of major concern for Israel.

"Our concern grows with every subsequent meeting with Russian officials," Rabin said Monday in Kiev.

Rabin, who is also the Israeli Defense Minister, met his Ukrainian counterpart, Valeriy Shmarov, to discuss cooperation in military affairs.

"The position committed to by Israel is clear enough — not to store up or create new types of arms but to modernize the existing ones," he said.

Shmarov said that Ukraine is interested in the Israeli experience in maintenance of a high defense capacity.

According to Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk, Ukraine is interested in obtaining Israeli help in the modernization of its fleet of TU-134 and other aircraft, seeking to combine advanced Israeli electronic equipment with revamped Ukrainian engines.

Ukraine is also seeking technological help for its food processing machine building and heavy metal industries, according to officials.

Rabin also found time to pay his respects to victims of the Nazi, laying wreaths on two Kyiv monuments to the victims the Babi Yar massacre.

Ukraine has, according to various estimates, about 500,000 Jews living within its borders, their number being about 3 million prior to the Holocaust.

They are a highly mobile population, with about 300,000 of them having emigrated to Israel, the United States and other locations in the years since the breakup of the Soviet Union, according to the Jewish Agency Sokhnut.

Rabin met with members of the local Jewish community during his stay, and discussed the status of Ukraine's Jewish people with Ukrainian officials.

"Ethnic tensions among different national minorities do nct exist (Ukraine)," Parliament Speaker Oleksandr Moroz said at a press conference with Rabin. "Our laws provide equal rights for all citizens."

National Affairs

Kuchma Sees Tarasyuk as Possible Udovenko Replacement

WS1309121695 Kiev INTELNEWS in English
0059 GMT 13 Sep 95

[Report by Halia Pavliva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Sept. 12 — President Leonid Kuchma is grooming First Deputy Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk to take his boss's place in the future.

The president said Tuesday [12 September] that while he is satisfied with the work of the Foreign Ministry and particularly with Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko, Ukraine is lacking in experienced diplomats.

"We never were an independent state," explained Kuchma. "That is why we have no professional people, no experts, so we have no diplomats."

The president confirmed that Tarasyuk will be named at a later date as Ukraine's ambassador to the Benelux countries (Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg) and justified the appoinment by saying the post would season the first deputy foreign minister.

"We are to prepare a future replacement for Udovenko," Kuchma said, adding, "I don't think (Udovenko) will be insulted by these words, he knows well about it."

The president, citing the fact that Tarasyuk never worked as an ambassador before, commented: "So let him work in Brussels for a while."

According to Kuchma, Tarasyuk was passed over early in the term of the current administration for the post of ambassador to the United States because he was needed in Ukraine at the time.

Kuchma Responds to Moroz Criticism of Government

WS1309123995 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0059 GMT 13 Sep 95

[Report by Halia Pavliva]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Kiev, Sept. 12 — President Leonid Kuchma on Tuesday [12 September] fired back at Parliament Speaker Oleksandr Moroz by saying he "unfortunately" sees no prospect for cooperation with Parliament "after yesterday's statements." Nevertheless, Kuchma said he would do everything to cooperate with Moroz.

At a Monday meeting with local rada [council] chairmen, Moroz said the government "does not fulfill its main function, namely managing the economy." [passage omitted]

Kuchma said that Moroz had not even seen the government program yet, which would make it difficult to critique properly.

Supreme Council Approves Changes to Electoral Law

LD1309143395 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1145 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — The Ukrainian Supreme Council today approved a law changing the wording of Article 46 of the Ukrainian law "On the election of people's deputies of Ukraine" in the section which concerns the procedure for holding elections in the event of the death or withdrawal of one of the candidates after the adoption of a decision on repeat elections. This rule was absent in the old law. According to this law, no later than seven days before polling day the district electoral commission includes on the ballot form the next candidate who obtained more votes than the other candidates. In the event that there is a death or that a candidate withdraws his candidacy less than seven days before polling day then one candidate remains on the ballot form. In the event that both candidates withdraw from the ballot, the district electoral commission adopts a decision declaring the elections invalid.

Parliament Seeks Resignation of Prosecutor General

LD1309210895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1839 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Sept 13 (INTERFAX-UKRAINE) - The Ukrainian parliament demanded Prosecutor General Vladislav Datsyuk be sacked Wednesday.

The deputies came to this conclusion after considering the results of an investigation by a special commission.

The parliament passed a resolution proposing Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma introduce a "motion on the prosecutor general" for consideration by the current parliamentary session.

The decision was passed with 208 votes for and 35 against, with seven abstentions.

The Ukrainian parliament had decided to sack Datsyuk for gross abuse of his office as far back as on June 20.

However, Kuchma confirmed Datsyuk's powers as prosecutor general by his July 1 decree.

The parliament appointed Donetsk Region Prosecutor Hennadiy Vasilyev as acting prosecutor general on July 14.

Prosecutor General Accuses 'Power Bodies' of Corruption

LD1309150295 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1145 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Ukraine's Prosecutor General Vladyslav Datsyuk is convinced that there would not be a third attempt to remove him from his post if it had not been for the fact that Ukraine's highest power bodies are corrupt. He said this at a news conference on 13 September.

According to Datsyuk, a considerable number of MP's who are demanding his resignation are mixed up in various financial affairs. He linked the appearance of an appeal from Yukhym Zvyahilskyy addressed to the Supreme Council with today's consideration by the parliament of the issue of the prosecutor general.

Datsyuk emphasized that he felt pressure from Supreme Council representatives the moment the prosecutor's office launched a criminal case against Zvyahilskyy. The prosecutor general is convinced that some deputies want to take advantage of the situation and deprive him of his post.

Orthodox Metropolitan Discusses Situation

WS1309130995 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 7 Sep 95 p 10

["Exclusive" interview with Volodymyr, Ukrainian Orthodox Church Metropolitan of Kiev and All Ukraine, by KIEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI reporters; in Kiev on 6 September: "Metropolitan of Kiev and All Ukraine Volodymyr: 'It is a Matter of Trading in Ukrainian Souls'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **A meeting between His Grace Volodymyr, Ukrainian Orthodox Church Metropolitan of Kiev and All Ukraine, journalists of the KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI joint stock company, and Serhiy Kichyhin, KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI's chief editor, was held on 6 September at the metropolitan's residence in the Kiev-Pechersk Monastery, where the metropolitan granted an exclusive interview.**

[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] Your Grace! Our readers are very interested in your assessment of the events which occurred on 18 July at the Sofia Square in Kiev.

[Volodymyr] While answering your question, I will not say anything new, mainly because I know what you know and from the same sources. However, my view is that it was a sad event. It was sad in two ways. First, every man, whoever he is in life, when he is dying, he has the right to submit to God's will: "Ashes to ashes, dust to dust." A man's soul goes to God to be judged. When something happens like what happened on 18 July, it is a disgraceful occurrence. The deceased is not being left to rest in peace.

The second aspect of this occurrence is also sad. This is a vivid example of what happens when politics and the church are closely interwoven. Obviously, it is indecent to play this card over the deceased. Every party, whether they are right or not, is to blame. Obviously, this provocation, this clash, was to someone's advantage.

[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] Continuing on this sorrowful topic, could you say a few words about the events in Yugoslavia? There is so much confusion on this issue. What do you think about the Yugoslav events and the prospects for overcoming the crisis?

[Volodymyr] My opinion is unambiguous: No problems that exist in society between people, and particualrly between countries, should under any circumstances be resolved by spilling blood. This goes for Chechenya and other places, too. Maximum effort must be made to resolve everything by political methods, by means of all kinds of negotiations. In places where blood is spilled, people become brutalized. Even good people become brutes. Thus, the bloody incident on the soil of former Yugoslavia continues. The saddest thing at present is the fact that everyone can apply anything that is convenient and advantageous for him. Some people have sympathy for Moslems and antipathy toward the Orthodox, while others feel antipathy toward Catholics. Everything is confused in this bloodbath and interreligious slaughter. Such things are always very painful and long-lasting. This process will last until it is brought to something resembling peace. Therefore, God save us from resolving problems on any continent in such a way.

[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] Your Grace, in light of Ukraine's proclamation of independence, how did recent years impact the development of the church?

[Volodymyr] I would say that the situation of churches in general has improved, if we disregard the situation of our Orthodox Church, which is currently catastrophic. I mean the schism, the division. Still, it is evident that all the churches and religions that exist in Ukraine — and there are currently over 70 that have been officially registered by the Ukrainian state — have acquired a sort of self-assurance. State laws protect all the religions officially acknowledged in Ukraine. All of them are equal before the law, they enjoy the same rights and have the same obligations. Thus, it can be said with confidence that within the period of Ukraine's independence, the Church acquired a more stable existence. It continues its work confidently and calmly. Its rights are not only guaranteed by the state, they are also protected by the state. This is really so.

[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] You just mentioned the 70 religions officially registered. However, our cities are literally flooded with missionaries from faraway countries. Do you or the Orthodox church protest at their appearance?

[Volodymyr] Of course we did, and we continue to do so! We have repeatedly made statements to that effect and expressed our concern. In my opinion, this process is a manifestation of pure sectarian totalitarianism, which is often very far removed from the church, although the majority of the preachers regard themselves as representatives of a religious church movement. We are very concerned about this process, and we have therefore appealed on numerous occasions to the Ministry of Nationalities and Religion, requesting that the matter of registration be approached more seriously, and that applicants be examined more scrupulously. The point is that very often, religious movements registered in Ukraine and also in the neighboring countries are condemned by both the law and the public, including in the United States. However, it seems that it is rather difficult to oppose this kind of phenomenon at this point.

The problem lies in the fact that the Orthodox church in Ukraine has been divided and weakened. We have neither material nor intellectual resources to build any kind of barrier against extremism, because the people coming here have huge wads of money. They make attempts to preach in Ukraine by word of mouth, by offering assistance, or by other methods. This is simply amazing, for it sort of makes us look unenlightened. We look as if we never heard of Jesus or the Gospels, while the whole world knows that the Orthodox church has existed in Ukraine for more than 1,000 years. This really is a big problem.

We periodically appeal to both the state and the nation over the issue. However, this is not enough: All those who make their premises available to foreign preachers or create other opportunities for them to operate forget that it is not a matter of selling, leasing, or using a palace or a stadium. It is a matter of buying and selling the souls of the Ukrainians living in Ukraine. This is a problem; it is problem number one.

[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] There have been many cases when non-believers all of a sudden begin to actively join all kinds of religions, for instance, the Seventh Day Adventists. Why? People explain: No one has reached out to us, but they did. We see them on television all the time and hear them on the radio. Perhaps our church should reach that category of people? This is not a piece of advice, God forbid. However, if a tragedy occurs, their preachers are right there. Meanwhile, the Orthodox church is not always so efficient.

[Volodymyr] The point is that the Orthodox church is traditional. I do not mean that it is passive, however it does not use methods aimed against religious extremism, particularly when proselytism, that is, changes of religion, are involved. This has never been typical of the Orthodox church. This has traditionally been in the Orthodox religion's nature and its blood. This is one aspect. The other aspect is our differing possibilities, including financial ones.

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church does not get a penny from anyone. Claims are made on our behalf that Moscow is supporting us. However, this is absolutely untrue.

[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] Your Grace, what is the position of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church among the 70 religions that you mentioned?

[Volodymyr] The Ukrainian Orthodox church occupies the first place. If Orthodox churches in Ukraine united....

[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] Is that possible?

[Volodymyr] We hope that this will be achieved through the confession of sins. Then the Orthodox church would become a force that hardly anybody would be able to compete with.

[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] Where do the profound reasons for the schism lie?

[Volodymyr] Certainly not in theological differences, as far as the orthodox branches that were recently established in Ukraine are concerned. There are no differences of dogma, but there are canonical differences. These give rise to schism and the violation of the church's rules under which the church has lived and existed from Evangelical times. Those rules are violated by the other churches that seceded from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. So the schism occurred and everything is now being mixed into it. That schism is solidifying and deepening, and new reasons and grounds for differences are appearing.

[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] What new reasons and grounds?

[Volodymyr] The political tinge. The Kiev Patriarchate aspires to become the Ukrainian national church, even the state church if possible. We approach this issue in accordance with the rules and regulations concerning the church. We respect state laws and church laws. Although the church is separated from the state, Ukrainian citizens belong to the church all the same. It is impossible to separate them from society and everything that is in our state. Unfortunately, all this acquires a nationalist, ultranationalist, and political coloring. This also causes new problems which lead to the deepening of the schism.

[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] Your Grace, we cannot omit one more question which is very interesting for our readers. How do you spend your free time? What kind of books do you read? What kind of music do you listen to? What newspapers do you read?

[Volodymyr] To my regret, there is less and less free time for reading. Reading however, is the pastime I like most. I read around 12 papers on a regular basis, various papers, to keep abreast of events. I live in the holy monastery. I receive visitors from morning until evening. I try to read periodicals, and listen to music. KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI is the first paper that I read. I like listening to classical and variety music, and even jazz. I cannot listen to jazz for a long time, since it tires me.

As for classical music, I prefer Bortnyanskyy and Tchaikowsky. I like church music.

[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] What kind of problems do people mostly come to you with?

[Volodymyr] Problems of illness, where they are offended by something, grieving over something, or complaining about poverty. They ask for protection and mercy. Even convicts come to me. I meet people with various kinds of problems — family problems and personal problems. All kinds of people come to me.

[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] Do you help them?

[Volodymyr] I help them to the best of my ability. Sometimes I help them in word, sometimes in deed.

[KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI] You Grace, Thank you very much for the very interesting conversation. What would you like to wish our readers?

[Volodymyr] Primarily, I would express the wish that people in the media serve through the word (there is such an expression in our church). One can serve people through the word, one can accomplish a lot with the word — educate people, address their minds and hearts, appeal to them, influence their moral upbringing, and shape an honest and not a consumerist attitude toward labor, toward all the values, arts, history, and our Ukraine.

Thus, I hope all servants of the word will loyally and faithfully serve society and the state, including the church. I hope that our readers will be honest and trusting with the people in the media and, if possible, not just take an interest in what they are doing, but take whatever part in it they can.

Defense Ministry Details Country's Space Program

WS1309130495 Kiev INTELNEWS in English
0059 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Sept. 11 — The Ukrainian Defense Ministry on Monday [11 September] detailed the state of the country's space program, revealing strengths and areas needing improvement.

Maj. Gen. Valeriy Lytvynov, Ukrainian Space Forces commander, said Ukraine inherited a host of military installations from the Soviet Union that controlled 30 percent of Soviet space programs. Among the facilities are one central command complex in Yevpatoria; three smaller land-based command centers in Yevpatoria; Simferopol and Dunayivtsi, Khmelnytskyy oblast; two surface ship command centers, the Cosmonaut Gagarin and Academic Koroliev.

In 1992 Russia expressed a desire to acquire these particular Ukrainian military installations, to which Ukraine emphatically responded no.

At the end of 1992, the Ukrainian Space Forces were created with plans to maintain the force and its facilities through the future.

According to Lytvynov, the land-based complexes have been fully integrated into his department. However, he said, military officials still have not decided the fate of the Cosmonaut Gagarin and Academic Koroliev command ships. The department will not have a need for them for at least another five years, Lytvynov said. Furthermore, Lytvynov said, it would cost US$ 8 million to repair the ships to top form, and the military would be hard-pressed to come up with the money.

Lytvynov said he does not exclude selling the ships, even for scrap metal, which at the very least would probably bring in from US$ 1.5 million to US$ 3 million.

Lytvynov said Russia does not need these ships because it already has four similar vessels plagued with similar problems.

The Ukrainian Space Forces currently operate two satellites according to international programs. At the end of September according to preliminary agreements, Ukraine will assume control of the Sich satellite (Okean series), which blasted off from the Plesetsk space center on Aug. 31.

Lytvynov said last week that it was "neither Ukraine's nor Russia's fault that the Chilean sub-satellite did not separate itself from the Ukrainian Sich satellite" after the joint payloads were sent into orbit by a Russian booster rocket.

"We did our best to make the launch of the first Ukrainian satellite a success," Lytvynov said.

Lytvynov said the Defense Ministry and National Space Agency will coordinate his departments activities to avoid duplicating any work.

Expert Views Failure of Chilean Satellite

WS1309123695 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER
in Ukrainian 7 Sep 95 p 7

[Interview with Oleh Uruski, head of the Administration For Space Complexes and Transport Systems at the Ukrainian Space Agency, by L. Samsonenko; place and date not given: "'Sich' Works, While the 'Chilean' Is Idle" — first two paragraphs are URYADOVYY KURYER introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Chile's diplomatic corps in Moscow recently went to the Russian cosmodrome at Plesetsk literally en masse to clarify the reasons for**

the non-separation of the FASat- Alpha microsatellite from the Ukrainian Sich satellite. This has been reported by MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS.

Is Ukraine at all at fault for this? How is our first satellite working today? These question were put by URYADOVYY KURYER correspondent L. Samsonenko to Oleh Uruski, head of the Administration for Space Complexes and Transport Systems at the Ukrainian Space Agency.

[Uruski] As your newspaper has already reported, on 31 August the Ukrainian Sich-1 satellite was put into near-Earth orbit, thus marking the beginning of the creation of a national system for nature management and environmental monitoring of the Earth. The apparatus is the first in a series of Sich satellites to be put into orbit by Ukraine in the future. A large-scale "Sich" program also envisions the creation of an appropriate above-ground infrastructure to receive and process data from space vehicles.

Regarding the operation of the first Ukrainian satellite in orbit, we need to highlight the following details. Removing the covers and unpacking the Sich-1's units and assemblies took place during the second stage of its first orbit, therefore the Ukrainian delegation received the first news about these operations while it was still at the Plesetsk cosmodrome. The information was auspicious for us even at that early stage — all the initial work to put the satellite into operation went successfully; all the equipment started functioning normally, including the open solar batteries. It was there and then, in the cosmodrome's observation point, that we started to embrace one another and congratulate ourselves, since we realized completely that the launch had been successful.

After making the appropriate preparations, we switched on the space vehicle's onboard equipment: a radar, radiometer, and scanner. As of today, we can say that the equipment is functioning faultlessly and smoothly. The data-receiving centers are receiving quite high-quality data from the satellite. The specialists have no adverse comments about the functioning of the onboard equipment of Ukraine's first satellite.

Separately, I would like to say a few words about the Chilean FASat Alpha microsatellite. As everyone knows, it was put into orbit jointly with our space vehicle, but only as an accompanying cargo. Its separation from the Sich-1 was to take place during the fourth orbit. Unfortunately, at the moment when the Flight Control Center was about to give a command to separate the satellite from our apparatus, the power was switched off at the instrumentation complex. As a result, commands for the separation were sent to the satellite only during the subsequent orbits. Alas, they were not "heard": The Chilean apparatus did not separate from the Ukrainian satellite.

Aside from this, there were several other attempts to make the FASat-Alpha "fly autonomously." There were many commands sent through different routes, but they remained unanswered.

According to the program, following the separation of the Chilean microsatellite, a command needs to be sent to the Sich-1 to extend a gravitational rod, which is the main element in the orientation system of a orbiting space vehicle. Until this operation is accomplished, the active orientation system of the satellite, which is intended for use only in abnormal or emergency situations, remains in operation. Following 18 orbits by the Ukrainian satellite and the unsuccessful attempts to separate the FASat-Alpha, it was resolved to extend the gravitational rod, since every orbit caused a decrease in the working medium of the orientation system, which might negatively impact the operation of our space apparatus in the future. During the 19th orbit the rod was extended, and the satellite is now functioning in its normal mode. There was a hope that we would succeed in separating the Chilean microsatellite during the operation of extending the rod, but, unfortunately, this hope did not come true. Following this, because of the risk of losing our own space apparatus, we stopped any attempts to free the FASat-Alpha from its "captivity." The microsatellite has no harmful impact on the operation of the Sich-1 system.

The flight of the Ukrainian space apparatus is being controlled, as planned, from the Flight Control Center located in the Russian Federation. This situation will last until the end of this fall's navigation on the northern route in the Arctic Ocean. Some day in October, the Sich control will be transferred to our Flight Control Center located in Yevpatoriya. Even now, though, data from the satellite are being received by Ukrainian data-receiving centers in Dnipropetrovsk, Sevastopol, and Kharkov. These centers will soon be joined by the main data-receiving center in Yevpatoriya. The tasks for the onboard equipment are planned by the Flight Control Center with the assistance of the Scientific Production Association "Planeta" — the corresponding body of Russia's State Committee of Hydrometeorology. Following the transfer of control to the Ukrainian center, consumers' orders for photographing certain places on the globe will be received through the State Scientific Production Enterprise "Orbita" in Dnipropetrovsk.

Finally, there is a point that is surely of great interest for our readers today. Is Ukraine responsible for failing to separate the Chilean microsatellite? A commission will soon be set up to examine the reasons for this failure. I will recall, however, that the FASat-Alpha was made by the well-known British firm "SSTL." This firm also developed the system for separating the microsatellite from the Sich-1 using the latest pyrotechnic materials made in the United States. Along with this, specialists from the "Pivdenne" Design Bureau and other organizations are carrying out tests in a semi-natural setting to find the reason for the non-separation.

Looking at the situation from the legal viewpoint, it should be said that the Chilean side has insured its microsatellite with one of the biggest Western insurance companies, which, as everyone knows, do not throw money away. The responsibility of one side or another will be determined following the technical examinations and investigations. For the time being, Ukraine does not see that it is to blame in this case — the records confirm that the commands for the separation were sent. As for the assembly and operational tests of the FASat-Alpha, they were carried out directly by British specialists. It is too soon to speak about someone's responsibility. Let us wait for the results of the examination.

TASS on Possible Sale of Space Fleet to China

LD1309180095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1734 GMT 13 Sep 95

[By Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, September 13 (ITAR-TASS) — The space fleet of the former Soviet Union left to Ukraine several years ago only because its port of documentation is in the Black Sea, will be possibly bought by China.

The Defense ministry of Ukraine to which ships of space communication "Yuriy Gagarin" and "Academician Korolev" belong, so far has not commented on Tuesday's [12 September] press reports in Kiev on Ukraine's intention to sell the space fleet.

However, the Ukrainian press has informed of the first guesses about a possible buyer. Observers believe that most likely it will be China which has recently begun work on the construction of its own orbital station.

Ukraine which launched its first satellite "Sich-1" not long ago, will not need this expensive equipment for at least 5-6 years.

Beijing reportedly intends to acquire an electronic docking system manufactured at the Kiev radio plant. The press also reports on an approximate price of the ships. The "Yuriy Gagarin" ship is estimated at 3.5 million U.S. dollars, and the "Academician Korolev" — 1.5 million U.S. dollars.

Yet another argument in favour of the press version is the announced oncoming visit of Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma to China during which it is planned to sign a treaty on cooperation in the field of cosmonautics.

Economic Issues

Presidential Adviser Says Production Crisis Eases

LD1309144495 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian
1145 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Ukraine's economy has made the transition from the stage of in-depth crisis to that of improvement in production, which will last another year and a half, said Anatoliy Halchynskyy, adviser to the president of Ukraine for macroeconomic issues.

He told an international conference titled "Ways of stepping up reforms in Ukraine's agro-industrial complex: privatization, management, and investment" today that pay in the past few months has risen at a rate in excess of the pace of inflation, production has relatively stabilized, and the influx of funds to Ukraine from abroad has increased. This was accompanied by the return of over $500 million of Ukrainian capital in 1995.

Anatoliy Halchynskyy believes that the key problem now is to combine the implementation of macroeconomic and microeconomic tasks. He rejected the idea of gradual, evolutionary development in Ukraine. There should be quick progress in every area on the basis of "a market economy under state regulation," he said.

Deputy Premier: Changing GNP Consumption 'Main Goal'

WS1309114295 Lvov INFOBANK in English
0943 GMT 13 Sep 95

[From the "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The main goal of the Government's macroeconomic policy is to change the structure of the GNP consumption, namely, to decrease spending for purposes not directly linked with the production of material goods, said Deputy Prime Minister Roman Shpek at the September 11 Cabinet meeting. In Ukraine, direct consumption accounted for 69.6 percent of GNP in 1994, as compared to 66.1 percent in Russia. At the same time, net accumulation of fixed capital made up only 18.2 percent of GNP in Ukraine, or 5 percent less than in Russia. Labor costs (wages and social benefits) remained excessively large, usually making more than 50 percent of GNP, said the deputy prime minister, while the fall in gross industrial production in June 1995 constituted 3 percent with regard to the previous month.

The speaker proposed to decrease corporate profits tax to enable enterprises to invest more funds in the upgrade of production.

Vice Premier: Government To Concentrate on Debt Problem

LD1309174895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1618 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Sept 13 (INTERFAX-UKRAINE) — The Ukrainian Cabinet intends to "concentrate upon breaking the vicious circle of outstanding debts", Vice Premier Anatoliy Kynakh said.

Addressing a joint meeting of heads of nine unions of engineering and military-industrial complex workers, Kynakh promised that "specific measures will be taken within a fortnight".

According to him, under the Ukrainian President's decree, a list of enterprises whose "hopeless debts" are to be written off, is being currently drawn up. In his words, papers on extending companies' debts for natural gas are also being drafted.

The government, the Vice Premier said, is elaborating a "standard procedure for a switch off of debtor companies from sources of electricity supply". The list of enterprises to be switched off in autumn and winter, will have been made before the end of September.

Parliament Postpones Bill on Financial Industrial Groups

WS1309114395 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0943 GMT 13 Sep 95

[From the "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On September 12 Ukraine's Supreme Council began consideration of the second reading of the bill "on financial industrial groups [FIG] in Ukraine." Deputies voted for amendments to the bill which will subject FIG's to standard antimonopoly legislation and will not give them tax exemptions which had been proposed earlier. Small tax exemptions will be given only for the production and transport of products used by FIG participants within the framework of the FIG. Deputies did not, however, agree on the exact definition of the term "industrial financial group" and whether or not a group's main business must be Ukrainian. Further consideration of the bill has been postponed.

Belarus

Balloon Carrying U.S. Citizens Shot Down

LD1309140595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1338 GMT 13 Sep 95

[By Belinform-ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Dutov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Minsk, 13 Sep — On 12 September A balloon, which appeared from the direction of the western border, was shot down over Belarus near the district centre of Bereza. The republican air defense services repeatedly asked for the flying object to identify itself but failed to get an answer. A Belinform correspondent has been told by the Defense Ministry Press Center that, as a result of the measures taken, the unidentified air target was hit. According to preliminary data, two foreigners were on board.

The Interior Ministry's services supplemented this information and said that the tragedy took place near the village of Krugloye at around 1155, after fighters had been scrambled. At 1415, the basket of the balloon was discovered in a forest. Two bodies with injuries consistent with a fall from a great height were discovered inside it. Both are U.S. citizens. It is thought they took part in the balloon championships for the Gordon Bennet cup, which started in Switzerland on 9 September.

A government commission has been set up in connection with the tragic incident. It is expected that an official report on the incident will be made.

Incident Likened to KAL Downing

LD1309194995 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 13 Sep 95

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] A special government commission was set up in Belarus today: air defense forces near the border shot down a hot air balloon with two foreigners on board. Both died. Our Minsk correspondent is on the line with the latest details.

[Correspondent Aleksandr Stupnikov] The two U.S. citizens, presumed to be sports balloonists, died following an incident close to the Polish-Belarusian border near the town of Bereza in Brest region. A group of hot air balloons, presumed to be taking part in an international race, described by the military as airborne vehicles, flew into Belarus airspace. The military suggest they did this without the appropriate permission. The Belarus air defense forces went on alert: according to one report, two fighters were sent up; according to another report, it was a helicopter. The people in one of the balloons failed to respond to the enquiries of the military, who opened fire for effect, and the balloon fell to earth. The crew were two U.S. citizens.

The U.S. embassy in Belarus confirmed the report that two U.S. citizens died today.

[Announcer] Aleksandr, hold on: We have had reports that the military specified the balloon to be an unrecognized air target. Could they really not see it was not a military target, not an aircraft but a civilian balloon? What explanations have been given for this in Minsk?

[Correspondent] Official Belarusian sources refuse to give any actual picture of events until an official statement is made. This has evidently not yet been drawn up and agreed. For the moment, in the type of catastrophe and the way the authorities behaved, the tragedy that has occurred in the Belarus skies recalls, on a smaller scale, the incident when the South Korean airliner was shot down in the Far East in the mid-1980s.

Government Regrets Balloon Downing

LD1309202295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2000 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, Sept 13 (INTERFAX-WEST) — The Belarusian government said it regretted the accident in which an air balloon had been shot down by national air defense.

Two pilots, who were foreign residents, died.

The Belarusian government made an official statement tonight. According to the statement, the Belarusian president ordered creation of a governmental commission for investigating the circumstances of the tragic event. The commission will be led by Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikovich who is to report to the president on the cause of the air balloon's downing before October 1.

The Belarusian Prosecutor General's Office was instructed to instigate a criminal case on the accident and control the investigation.

The government said in its statement that the air balloon had been discovered in Belarus' air space on September 12 at 9:41 am local time. The air balloon was flying deeper into Belarusian territory. "All measures taken by the air defense patrol in order to come in contact with the flying object were in vain. A military helicopter flew around the air balloon in order to sight the pilots. Air defense made warning shoots. However, the measures gave no result," the government said.

Air defense brought the air balloon down near the Osovtsy aerodrome (Brest region), where strategic missile troops are deployed, at 11:54 am. The killed pilots have yet to be identified.

Organizers: Balloon Had Permission To Fly

LD1409071395 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0600 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Government has made an official protest to the Belarusian authorities over the fact that a balloon was shot down in the airspace of the former Soviet republic, with two U.S. pilots on board. Both pilots were killed.

Spokesmen for Belarusian air defense forces said that the balloon was shot down two hours after crossing the country's state border, coming from Poland, but only after unsuccessful attempts to make contact with the crew.

Nevertheless, the organizers in Switzerland of the international contests, in which the Americans were taking part, said that all aircrews had permission to fly in Belarusian airspace.

BELAPAN Recaps Balloon Downing Reports

WS1409080795 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0714 GMT 14 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BELAPAN received a statement of the government of the Republic of Belarus concerning the death of two foreign pilots of a balloon happened in the Brest region on September 12. According to the statement, on this day, at 9.41 am a balloon was discovered in the air space of the Republic of Belarus near the state border. The balloon was moving further on the territory of the Republic. The measures undertaken by forces of anti-aircraft defense to set contacts with the flying object, numerous attempts to contact the balloon on the radio, the flight of a military helicopter to discover pilots visually were in vain. At 11.54 am the balloon was shot down near the Osovtsy airfield (Brest region) where strategic troops were dislocated. As a result of the shot two foreign pilots died. They were the citizens of the United States of America. The statement reads: "The government of the Republic of Belarus regrets on the fact of the death of the air accident resulted in the death of people".

The Belarusian President instructed to create a state commission on investigating all circumstances of the accident. As a BELAPAN correspondent was informed in the US Embassy in Minsk, an Embassy officer left for the Brest region to take the remains of the dead people who, as it turned out, were involved into a race on balloons which started in Switzerland on September 9.

Chyhir: 'No Decline' in Relations With Moscow

WS1309114095 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0640 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The head of the Belarusian government Mikhail Chyhir stated at the governmental press conference, "There is no decline in Belarusian-Russian relations." According to Mr Chyhir, the two parties work on the implementation of the second stage of creating the Customs Union envisaging first of all the creation of the payment union — equal conditions for functioning of enterprises of the two states and for determining mutual debts. A joint commission works on these issues. As far as the prices for Russian power supplies are concerned, Mr Chihir noted that "due to the increase of internal prices in Russia Belarus buys gas at those prices which are used in Russia." However, according to information received by the Belarusian Government, at present Russian enterprises pay about 30 percent of the needed sum for gas while the Republic of Belarus has to pay much more. Thus, according to the prime minister, it is not the time to speak of equal conditions for enterprises. All arguments should be considered during the next intergovernmental meeting planned to be held within one or two months.

Participation in UN Activities Viewed

WS1309113595 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 7 Sep 95 p 2

[Interview with Alyaksandr Mikalayevich Sychow, permanent Belarusian representative to the United Nations, by Leanid Lakhmanenka; place and date not given: "Belarus Has Found Itself in Multilateral Diplomatic Relations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Lakhmanenka] Alyaksandr Mikalayevich, preparations for the UN's 50th anniversary have entered their final stage. How is this perceived in the UN headquarters in New York?

[Sychow] Yes, we are close to celebrating the UN jubilee. Preparations for it began two years ago and since then the UN's activities have been carried out under the banner of the upcoming 50th anniversary. In addition, the UN golden jubilee is regarded as an excellent opportunity to analyze its past activities and draw conclusions for the future.

Hence, the atmosphere in the UN headquarters in New York is businesslike these pre-festive days. Constructive documents and decisions are being drafted to make it possible for the UN to operate with greater effectiveness, promptly respond to the changes taking place on a global scale, and during the next 50 years influence local conflicts and developments without delay.

This work is the main direction in the activities of the current UN, because the world political situation has cardinally changed over the last five years. The issues of a global nature which can be resolved only through the joint efforts of mankind and within the UN framework are becoming more critical for mankind.

It is no accident that the mere fact of the UN's 50th anniversary is considered in the UN headquarters from the viewpoint of specifying new tasks and priorities. A preparatory committee for celebrating the UN's 50th anniversary is operating actively now; the text of the declaration is being drafted and there are plans to approve it at the session of heads of state at which the UN's activities — from the beginning of its existence — will be assessed, and undoubtedly, the UN's prospects will be discussed.

[Lakhmanenka] How do you, as a professional diplomat specializing in the UN who knows its specifics well, assess the main result of the activities of this largest and most authoritative international organization over the past 50 years?

[Sychow] Of course, it is no original statement if I say that its essence is in the following: The UN has managed to preserve peace on the planet and strengthen international security. I assume that these words are often perceived abstractly, but believe me that it has been very, very difficult to achieve this against the background of the tough — sometimes verging on military confrontation — opposition between two systems. The second important thing is the collapse of the colonial system due to which many new states obtained their independence.

Among the UN achievements, I would particularly emphasize the liquidation of racism. In addition, we should not forget the UN's role in resolving a variety of regional conflicts: for example, its fruitful participation in settling a very sharp and intricate conflict in the Near East.

Guided by the aims and principles enshrined in the UN Charter, the UN has contributed to forming the structure of modern international relations.

The UN now continues to assist the peoples of the world in securing political stability and stable development.

[Lakhmanenka] Over the 50 years of the UN's existence, there have been, however, miscalculations, mistakes, the ineffective use and — often — squandering of financial resources. The UN has been repeatedly and severely criticized for this.

[Sychow] I agree that the UN did not manage to accomplish everything before, and neither does it manage to do so now. As they say, a negative result, however, is still a result. It also forces the UN to look for other approaches toward implementing its mission. Much more attention, compared with the past, is paid to drafting socioeconomic programs. New problems that require more and more attention have emerged: refugees, emigration, proliferation of drugs, terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, environmental protection, and so on.

I am sure that these problems would have been resolved more quickly had it not been for the explosion of subregional and local conflicts in various parts of the world of late. Peacekeeping activities take up most of the time and effort of the Security Council and the UN headquarters officials. Peacekeeping activities require financial resources. While before, some $800,000 used to be spent on peacekeeping operations, this amount has increased to $4 billion so far.

This is not to mention recent developments in Bosnia: The Security Council has adopted a resolution to use rapid reaction forces there. The implementation of such a complex operation will cost some $300 million. Obviously this money could have been spent much more advantageously for the protection of the sick, hungry, and needy, or for environmental protection, and so on.

[Lakhmanenka] It is no secret that the new independent states that emerged after the collapse of the USSR count on moral, but even more, on material support. By the way, what are the relations between the Belarusian mission and the missions of the other CIS states in the UN? Do you always find a common language?

[Sychow] Yes. We meet regularly — once a month — at the level of permanent representatives; we hold consultations on the issues and problems that are critical for the CIS countries. As a result, a variety of joint statements and declarations have been drafted: for example, on Chernobyl issues, fighting crime, environmental protection, and celebrating the 50th anniversary of the victory over fascism. We are more often uniting our efforts in directions where we can score success. It is clear that today each former Soviet republic has its own national interests, but as before there is much in common between us, including foreign policy. The CIS states are currently actively operating in the UN. Their voices in New York are becoming more confident. We are resolutely putting urgent issues common to countries with a transitional economy to the forefront.

[Lakhmanenka] Well, what about relations with former opponents from the capitalist camp?

[Sychow] We are shifting from confrontation to genuine cooperation. Normal businesslike and, I would even say, constructive mutual relations are being established between us.

The problems about which the UN is concerned are common to almost every country in the world. Belarus, for example, is a member of the "GODOS" group [expansion unknown] comprising 40 countries that are drawing up a joint position in the sphere of disarmament, peacekeeping, and international security. So diplomats from Belarus are working along with representatives from the United States, England, Canada, France, Germany, and other countries. Our relations with them are partnerlike.

[Lakhmanenka] But, as far as I know, the CIS countries and former friends of the USSR — the Asian and African states which embarked on the path of development and used to receive considerable material aid from the UN before — have fallen out. A competitor to the Asian and African states has emerged — the so-called countries with a transitional economy that also require financial support to resolve this transition.

[Sychow] Yes, the interests of these countries are now coming into conflict, because the entire technical assistance of the UN used to be channeled only to the developing and underdeveloped countries. A new group of countries with a transitional economy has already emerged and they will not be able to independently deal with numerous problems. I will add that there are over 20 such countries and they also justly claim a certain portion of UN resources to more quickly shift to a market economy.

A kind of competition has emerged. Naturally, the countries that embarked on the path of development watch extremely enviously the UN assistance that is being claimed more resolutely by the countries of Central and eastern Europe. The funds that were traditionally channeled to the developing countries have been cut and a kind of fight for their redistribution is currently in progress.

As regards Belarus, during the relevant negotiations, we actively used the tenet that the UN is a universal international organization which should serve the interests of all states.

[Lakhmanenka] I am interested to know what the rich developed countries, thanks to whose contribution there is an opportunity to render material assistance to other states, think about the issue.

[Sychow] In my opinion, the general position of the donor-states on this issue is in fact aimed at supporting the states with a transitional economy. You can sense this from the behavior of the Western states when they vote on draft resolutions concerning the east European countries, including Belarus and other CIS members.

[Lakhmanenka] By the way, are there any groupings in the UN? Could you please say a few words about them?

[Sychow] There are traditional regional groups within the UN framework. The most developed countries of the West have formed their own group. There are groups comprising countries from Asian, African, and Latin American regions. There is also a group of east European countries comprising Belarus. The aim of establishing groups is well known — to implement specific objectives and resolve one task or another.

Each regional group has its own subregional subgroups. For example, all 15 EU member-states adhere to a common position. An EU chairman always makes a statement on behalf of these countries. Some Latin American, Scandinavian and other states behave similarly. A new subregional group of Baltic states comprising Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia has been established. They also declare their common interests. After the collapse of the USSR, a subregional group of CIS countries was created.

[Lakhmanenka] How does our young independent state, which was under the patronage of the USSR Foreign Ministry for several decades, feel in this whirlpool of group interests and intrigues?

[Sychow] Belarus has found its place in real multilateral diplomatic relations. Our UN mission pursues a policy of protecting our national interests by implementing the objectives of groups of countries with a transitional economy. In my opinion, we manage to do this. Let us take the sphere of international economic cooperation. What can our mission do in this respect? First of all, we are striving to introduce the problems of the countries with a transitional economy into the resolutions and decisions by the UN General Assembly to bolster their trade, their soonest posssible integration into the world economy, the receipt of sizable investments, and the resolution of complicated problems of the transition period.

[Lakhmanenka] Could you provide an example?

[Sychow] Let us have a look at the problem of transit over which so many lances have been broken. This issue is one of the most pressing for the Belarusian economy. The last UN session managed to adopt a resolution called "Transit for Countries With No Access to the Sea." I believe that it would be beneficial for our country to know also how international experts assess this issue, in addition to its own assessment of the state of transit in Belarus.

According to the resolution, several studies of all types of transportation — automobile, railroad, pipelines, and air — will be carried out. Their aim is to specify conditions and the price formation mechanism for the relevant countries. This is a very complicated problem and the approach to it should also be a complex one. Belarus was one of the most active co-authors of this resolution, because we see the practical benefit of this document for our state.

Today, I am deeply convinced of this, we should look at the UN from the pragmatic viewpoint, take everything that is advantageous for Belarus which has been produced within the framework of this largest international organization. The first national program for Belarus — part of the UN Development Program — was devoted to precisely this purpose, as well as the participation of Belarus in the UN Children's Fund and other UN bodies. We are striving to obtain assistance from these UN organizations for our children and families that have suffered from Chernobyl.

In general, the subject of Chernobyl is our daily concern. We will do everything possible to keep the Chernobyl issue on the agenda of the 50th UN session. This, however, will not be easy, because the world is gradually losing interest in the Chernobyl catastrophe, because almost 10 years have passed since that awful day.

In practice, the Belarusian initiative to convene an international conference on the stable development of countries with a transitional economy in 1996 also uses the UN opportunities in practice.

[Lakhmanenka] How is the issue of reducing the level of Belorusian payments to the UN budget being resolved?

[Sychow] I want to stress that the problem of reducing the level of payments by Belarus to the UN budget has been the constant focus of attention of the Belarusian permanent mission. Last year, we worked hard and incessantly to protect the interests of Belarus in the sphere of UN financial activities. As a result, the level of Belarusian payments to the UN regular budget was considerably reduced for 1995-97 and the total amount of this reduction (excluding payments to the budgets of UN special bodies) stands at $20 million.

Our current attempts are aimed at further reducing the payments for peacekeeping operations.

[Lakhmanenka] Many UN member-states participate in peacekeeping operations, while Belarus does not. What is your attitude toward this issue?

[Sychow] To be exact, 90 countries take part in peacekeeping operations. The Belarusian flag is not among them, and this is regrettable, because the participation of our country in peacekeeping activities would have given us political and financial benefits. There is a system of compensation for difficult peacekeeping operations. This compensation amounts to tens of millions of dollars. I believe that it makes sense to more attentively study the issue regarding our potential participation in peacekeeping activities.

The world is also waiting for our answer to this question. The UN leadership, for example, constantly asks me: "When will Belarus begin to participate in UN peacekeeping activities?" Sooner or later, we will have to provide an answer — "yes" or "no" — to the international community.

[Lakhmanenka] My last question is as follows: What are the plans to celebrate the 50th UN anniversary in New York?

[Sychow] The jubilee session will have a somewhat unique form. It will be opened on 19 September of this year with a general political discussion that will continue for some three weeks. Then, on 19 October, the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II will be celebrated.

A high-level ceremonial session in honor of the UN jubilee will be held on 22-24 October.

We can say that there will be an extremely high level of representation right now: More than 100 presidents have confirmed their participation in the jubilee activities. Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka will also come to New York.

It is planned that during the three-day period, every top official representative of a country will make a speech. Our president will be given the floor on the first day. I regard this as a sort of recognition of the role and importance of Belarus in the world.

Premier Supports Lukashenka's Edicts on Privileges

WS1309114195 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0640 GMT 13 Sep 95

[All figures as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At the governmental press conference of September 11 the head of the Cabinet Mikhail Chyhir stated that the situation occurred in the national economy when measures envisaged by presidential decrees on pension provision and privileges could not but be undertaken. According to Mr Chyhir, the government managed to achieve good results on the macroeconomic level, especially with average wages and with the inflation. The former was $77 a month (without agricultural workers) and $72 a month taking into consideration those working in agriculture. The latter was 3 percent in August. However, the improvement in the national economy and the increase of prosperity of the people, in particular those who receive their wages from the budget is impossible without thrift policy. It was due to presidential decrees that the wages of those receiving them from the budget were reconsidered. Though they were not increased directly but special funds were created to praise workers with bonuses. The President and the government were forced to regulate pension provision and to change some privileges by the coming winter. The matter is that the leadership of the country is not satisfied with mutual payments with Russia on gas provision from that country. Specific results achieved with the implementation of two presidential decrees should free extra money on paying power resources. The exact sum of money saved due to the decrees is rather hard to determine. It is explained by many reasons. In principle, according to the Prime-Minister, the economy as a result of abolition of privileges for communal services will constitute 173 billion rubles [R] a year, for using city public electric transportation — R130 billion, for other means of public transportation — R1,100 billion and for communication services — R22 billion. Total — R1,425 billion. The sum is rather approximate and it does not mean that budget expenses will increase or decrease by that sum. The amount of money the state pays annually on privileges is R2,434 billion. The situation with the amount of persons enjoying privileges was described by Deputy Prime Minister Syarhey Linh, present at the press conference. He informed that 2,247 thousand people enjoyed privileges in paying communal services. The decree abolished privileges for 208,000 people. As far as the electric transportation is concerned, 1,140 thousand people enjoyed privileges. The decree abolished privileges for 536,000 people. Other means of transportation — 5,555 thousand (2,735 thousand), communication services — 338 thousand (306 thousand). Speaking to journalists, the head of the government also noted that it is not worth speaking of abolition of privileges for all categories of persons. However, Mr Chyhir admitted that some problems of abolition of privileges should have been discussed both by the government and the Supreme Soviet. Mainly it concerns privileges for those who suffered from the calamity at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. According to the Prime-Minister, the decision on privileges for such persons was taken when the USSR existed and was quite true regarding persons' interests while adopting the state budget of the Belarusian Soviet Socialist Republic in the budget of the USSR. The situation radically changed after the Republic acquired its independence... Mr Chyhir admitted that the dissatisfaction of some categories of persons deprived of privileges is valid. In particular, it concerns law enforcement organs officers who with respect to their duty have the right of free transportation on the territory of the Republic of Belarus. The premier has already talked to the Minister of Internal Affairs Yuryy Zakharenka and this problem will soon be resolved and officers serving in the militia will be provided with free transportation except people serving at passport offices and some others. The prime minister also admitted that the implementation of the decrees will be negative for some categories of persons. The government realizes it and will enforce local authorities to provide them with assistance from the budget. As far as the fact that the decrees issued by the President contradict the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus is concerned, the head of the government stated, that there is no other way to save resources. "The measures undertaken are necessary to save the position of the economy mainly, the inflation and the wages. Otherwise, the financial system may soon be ruined". According to Mr Chyhir, during the considering of the decrees whether they correspond to the Constitution common sense should prevail and the Constitutional Court should support the decisions adopted by the government and the President.

Hryb Praises First Week of Legislative Session

WS1309113495 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0300 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A news conference was held at the Belarusian Supreme Soviet summing up results of the work done by the Belarusian parliament during the first week of plenary meetings. Supreme Soviet Chairman Myacheslaw Hryb, who participated in the conference, praised the productive activity displayed by the deputies. To confirm this, he said that about 20 various legislative acts were examined during that week. Mentioning some of them, the legislative speaker focused on changes to the law on election of deputies to the Supreme Soviet and local soviets. He then reconfirmed the necessity to lower the threshold of voter participation in elections to 25 percent.

Moldova

Snegur, Smirnov Disagree on Status of Dniester

LD1309185095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, Sept 13 (INTERFAX) — Moldovan President Mircea Snegur and Transdniestr region leader Igor Smirnov could not agree on the status of the region in their latest round of talks that ended in Chisinau Wednesday [13 September].

The two men agreed not to make any statements for the press. The round lasted 4 hours.

Snegur's and Smirnov's press secretary made a brief statement which recognized the failure of the talks and said that the talks will be continued.

No documents were signed, nor was the date of a new round set.

The two sides had earlier agreed that Snegur and Smirnov would meet once a month.

A member of the Moldovan negotiating team told Interfax that the talks were overshadowed by Smirnov's address last Saturday in the State Duma in which he asked the Russian MPs to recognize the statehood of the Transdniestr region. The Moldovan official said that the Transdniestr officials insisted on this in the Wednesday talks, too.

The official does not believe that any progress will be made in the talks on the status of the Transdniestr region until parliamentary elections are held in Russia. According to him, Tiraspol is dragging its feet on the issue in the hope of having greater support from Moscow.

Snegur: Rebirth, Accord Party Ensures Stability

LD1309200295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1733 GMT 13 Sep 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Rebirth and Accord party was created to consolidate centrist forces and to ensure prosperity and public stability, Moldovan President Mircea Snegur told INTERFAX Tuesday [12 September]. The party, the 38th political organization in the country, was registered by the Justice Ministry today.

(Snegur was elected leader of the party at its constituent assembly, held on August 26 — IF Note.)

According to Snegur, "Moldovan laws allow the president to head a party, that is why I took such a decision in order to stabilize the political center."

The president, who believes that Moldova has been "leaning leftward," lately, said that "only centrist parties can ensure prosperity and stability now."

Speaking about the party's name, Snegur said that it implies "permanent rebirth in all spheres, including in the material one." However, the process must be closely tied to the social accord because "representatives of different ethnic groups live in Moldova," he said.

Kazakhstan

PRC Offers 'Significant Concession' on Nuclear Tests

MM1409081395 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Sep 95 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Skosyrev: "Beijing Promises To Keep an Eye on Kazakhstan When Conducting Nuclear Explosions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beijing — "Kazakhstan has suffered just as much as Japan from nuclear explosions. A total of 526 tests have been conducted on its territory. Half a million people have been subjected to the effect of radioactivity. This was the crime of the leadership of the Soviet Union," President N. Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan stated at a press conference in Beijing.

"We have been left to face this misfortune alone. No one is helping us. That is why we naturally cannot help being concerned about nuclear tests in China, which are being conducted not very far from the Kazakhstani border," the president continued. Nazarbayev has raised this issue with the Chinese at all meetings over the past three years. And during his current visit to the PRC the Kazakhstani president managed to obtain a significant concession from Beijing. Beijing has agreed to create a joint Chinese-Kazakhstani commission which will track the environmental situation at the site of the underground explosions, and report on whether any radioactivity has moved in Kazakhstan's direction.

On the other hand, it is unclear when the commission will be able to start work and what its powers will be. Particularly since, from what Chinese leaders have said, there is no danger of radioactive substances escaping to the surface.

Beijing's opinion is, however, denied by German researchers who spent some time in the Gobi Desert last year. According to their data, following tests the level of radioactivity went up sharply in adjacent areas.

The problem of separatist actions in Central Asia and China's Xinjiang-Uigur autonomous region was also discussed at the talks. This is a burning issue, if only because the ethnic composition of the indigenous population in Xinjiang and the former Soviet republics is practically identical. For example, 1 million Kazakhs live in China. Both sides condemned separatism, and, as can be concluded from what Nazarbayev said, they intend to cooperate in the fight against underground nationalist movements.

As for the possibility of returning the Kazakhs from China to their historical motherland, then here Almaty has occupied a cautious stance. A kind of unofficial Kazakhstani consulate has opened in the capital of Xinjiang, which is called the aviation office consular group. This group will have to examine applications made by Chinese citizens wanting to resettle in Kazakhstan.

Defense Works Conversion For First Half 1995

954F3416A Almaty PANORAMA in Russian 9 Sep 95 No 35, p 11

[Interview with Valeriy Shevelev, deputy minister of industry and trade, by Oleg Khe, PANORAMA correspondent; date and place not given: "Only 3 Percent of the Necessary Amount Is Allocated for the Conversion of Defense Industries in the First Half of the Year: Not One Contract for the Conversion of Special Equipment Has Been Concluded by Kazakhstani Enterprises of the VPK Since the Start of The Year"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Khe] Do conversion measures in fact conform to the tasks set by the conversion program for 1995?

[Shevelev] Given its full financial support, the program was directed at quick implementation of the conversion process. According to calculations for 1995, 3.5 billion tenge [T] was required for conversion measures. It was proposed to conduct a large part of the expenditures at the expense of the resources of the republic budget, and the rest of the expenditures were supposed to be assumed by the enterprises themselves, taking into account their own monetary reserves and attracted resources, including foreign investments. However, in the first half of the year the actual situation took shape in a most unfavorable way. The budget was approved only in the middle of March, and the distribution of resources occurred only at the beginning of April. Thus, the receipt of real money should be expected in the second half of the year.

On the other hand, the approach of the state structures to a question as serious as the conversion of enterprises was obviously not objective. According to items of the budget and the subsequent distribution, T109 million is being allocated to the Korgau NAK [national joint-stock company], which amounts to 3 percent of what is necessary. The allocation for social measures, including support for the transfer of the housing fund to the jurisdiction of local administrations, is T406.710 million, while the requirement is T1.5 billion. It is planned to allocate resources to the employment fund by a factor of 3.5 less than what is required.

However, according to data of the Ministry of Finance, these figures are subject to adjustment. According to a Ministry of Finance proposal, it is necessary to reduce expenditures on the conversion item by 25 percent, and on the social measures item—by 50 percent. The employment fund decided to allocate the earmarked T40 million not to the support of wages, but to the equipping of classrooms, payment of scholarships, and teachers' pay. Evidently the fund is proposing to convert from highly qualified specialists to those who are less qualified.

Thus, in the first six months the conversion program did not receive financial support on the part of the republic budget, and the outlook for the second half of the year does not inspire hope.

[Khe] Will defense enterprises be able to function independently?

[Shevelev] Since the beginning of this year Kazakhstani enterprises of the VPK [military-industrial complex] have not concluded even one contract for the production of special equipment. The hopes of receiving orders on the part of traditional partners—the CIS countries, first and foremost the Russian Federation—were not justified. Added to all of this are the problems of nonpayments for fulfilled contracts and the shortage of turnover resources for fulfilling contracts executed earlier. The picture will be complete if we add to this the forced maintenance of unused production and mobilization capacities, the social sphere, the housing fund, the state reserve, and the special design-technological and technical personnel.

One can cite the Machine Construction Plant AO [joint-stock company] as an example. The capacities of the plant made it possible in former times to produce standard products calculated in tenge in the sum of 1.8 billion per year. Last year the plant implemented only 31 percent of its capability. But the cost of maintaining the unused capacities amounted to T50 million. If expenditures on social facilities are taken into account, it is not difficult to recommend a financial base of the enterprise that can be counted on in the implementation of conversion measures.

Despite difficulties, enterprises of the defense complex will nonetheless succeed in partly putting production on a new track. It is true that the scant nature of their own resources does not make it possible to use modern industrial production technologies and develop new types of articles, which in significant measure raises the cost of civilian products. Corroboration of this are the exhibits of the commodities of defense plants held in Atyrau and Petropavlovsk. About 500 designations of new products were offered at the latter. In the main these are livestock breeding complexes, technical equipment for processing agricultural products, and other raw materials that Kazakhstan has. Quality is at a high level, but the price leaves a lot to be desired. This indicates that conversion issues cannot be managed with small resources. There is a need for significant capital investment that will ensure the creation of highly efficient production. The Reconstruction and Development Bank, which is called on to finance the implementation of projects, was established for this purpose.

Conversion programs can be implemented in another way owing to foreign grants. Thus, an international agreement was signed with the United States within the scope of the Nunn-Lugar program, which envisions the implementation of a number of joint projects of the program for conversion of Kazakhstan's defense enterprises. In 1995 the U.S. Government earmarked four grants in a sum of $1.5 million for the establishment of joint enterprises, and one of them was received by the Gidromash AO, an enterprise of the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Another 14 projects have been submitted for examination for future cooperation in this sphere, and the American side expressed its intention to allocate grants for two of them this year. But it is still not known how quickly Kazakhstan will receive subsequent grants. Every local department is pursuing its own interests, which leads to forced delays.

In particular, for a long time we were unable to arrive at a general opinion with Goskomimushchestvo [State Committee for the Management of State Property], which revised its position several times. In the meantime the Americans are not hurrying with grants owing to which it would be possible already now to establish new joint enterprises. It is planned in the near future to conduct an exhibit of products of Kazakhstani plants in San Diego. It is possible that the display of commodities produced in VPK enterprises will arouse interest and that the volume of monetary receipts will increase.

[Khe] How are Kazakhstan's relations with CIS countries shaping up in the plan of conversion of the VPK?

[Shevelev] In the first half of 1995 negotiations took place with the Russian Federation at the level of defense industry committees. As a result, cooperation agreements were signed in the defense industry sphere and on the restoration of previous ties. The Russian side wanted to renew a number of defense orders in the coming three years at Kazakhstani plants.

Probably, long-term cooperation with the Russian partners should be restored in the area of production of special equipment. It is also necessary to take similar actions with other CIS countries. It is perfectly obvious that the question on the preservation of specialization of enterprises of the defense complex should be resolved at government level. This will make it possible to finally determine what it is necessary to preserve and what to turn over to privatization.

After the first step of three states concerning a unified Customs Union, it is also necessary to take the next steps in the direction of creating a unified military-industrial union and a unified mobilization plan.

[Khe] Has financing of defense enterprises on a large scale proved justified somewhat?

[Shevelev] The basic industries, such as metallurgy, chemistry, and their subordinate branches, are gradually coming out of the crisis. At the same time the national machine-building complex should orient itself on fulfillment of their orders. At present, the basic industries are purchasing all major equipment in the near and far abroad. But this is a matter of time, inasmuch as Kazakhstan has all the capabilities to revive special technical production for the development of industry.

Armenia

Energy Minister Denies Nuclear Plant Dangers

NC1309182395 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 0928 GMT 13 Sep 95

[Gagik Martirosyan Denies Rumors About Environmental Danger of Armenian Nuclear Power Plant—NOYAN TAPAN Headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, 13/09/95 NOYAN TAPAN—"There are no dangerous phenomena on the Armenian Nuclear Plant," Energy Minister Gagik Martirosyan announced at September 12 press- conference. He denied recently published information about a crack in the reactor of the plant. According to the Minister, during strong testing of the reactor, in the extreme mode, the internal pressure of it was driven to 195 kilograms, while the ordinary maximal amount is only 155 kilograms and it works at no more than 125. The water leakage noticed under such conditions does not present any danger and was caused not by a crack but due to weakening of joints connecting supply pipes and the reactor.

According to the Minister, the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant is the first plant to be reactivated in the former USSR. New technical documents need to be worked out for this purpose. Above 200 measures have to be taken for successful reactivation and only 70 percent of them have been already taken. The qualification of the staff is also checked before the plant is reactivated. The examination held to this end showed that 20 percent of the employees did not meet the required standards.

Gagik Martirosyan said that besides the credit of 60 billion rubles offered by Russia, another 14 billion were allotted for reactivation of the plant. More than that, the plant was provided with equipment valued at 47 billion rubles. Specialists from Armenia and Russia are working in tight cooperation on the plant.

President's Office Says No ARFD Request Received

NC1309133095 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0750 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan ("LRAGIR" daily - PAST), 09/13/95 — Presidential press service reported that the President of Armenia Levon Ter-Petrosyan won't respond to the message of ARFD [Armenian Revolutionary Federation—Dashnaktsutyun] Bureau, requesting to allow calling a general assembly of the party.

According to presidential spokesperson, the President has not received any official message from Dashnaktsutyun. The message, addressed to the President, was written on ordinary paper, without the address, signatures, or seal, which was very suspicious.

Questioned that how could a forbidden party send such an official message spokesperson said, at least some of the party leaders could have signed it.

Three National Assembly Factions Announce Leadership

NC1309184495 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1045 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan 13/09/95 NOYAN TAPAN — In compliance with National Assembly's decision "On activities of factions and groups of the National Assembly", on September 12 data on leaders of three factions were made public. Chairman of the "Hanrapetutyun" faction is Ter Husik Lazaryan, and Ashot Sargisyan is its secretary. The NDU [National-Democratic Union] faction is headed by Vazgen Manukyan, secretary is Shavarsh Kocharyan. CPA [Communist Party of Armenia] faction is headed by Sergey Badalyan, secretary is Khoren Sargisyan.

Data on leaders of the "Shamiram" public and political organization and the UNSD [Union of National Self-Determination] will be made public in the near future.

RLDP Leader Views Party's Future

NC1309182995 Yerevan SNARK in English 1335 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, September 13 (SNARK) — Ruben Mirzakhanyan, leader of the Ramkavar Liberal Democratic Party (RLDP), regards recent event at RLDP as a policy for cutting the activity of the traditional parties in the territory of Armenia.

Since August, 1995, a group of former members of RLDP have periodically appealed and accused Mirzakhanyan of ruining the structure of the party, concentrating the party's budget in his hands and privatizing some of it, monopolizing the power in the party.

In a press conference held today, Mirzakhanyan stated that some political groups are evidently interested in this matter. To prove it, Mirzakhanyan stressed the activeness of Armenpres news agency in spreading such appeals. He did not exclude the direct influence of state organizations hoping that the President of Armenia whose candidacy RLDP has proposed for the future presidential elections, will not spread details of the events.

Mirzakhanyan said that due to the existing situation, the RLDP intends to hold an extraordinary congress soon. He also intends to take those who spread such rumors to court.

Mirzakhanyan stated that he is not going to resign from the leadership post of the RLDP. According to him, it would have been a let down towards the party when it is experiencing hard times.

It should be reminded that the RLDP could not overcome the 5 percent barrier during the parliamentary elections.

Approximately a year ago a group of members left the RLDP and formed their own Ramkavar Azatakan Party, which in the end joined the Republic block.

Azerbaijan

UN Secretary General's Special Envoy Arrives

LD1309173895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1714 GMT 13 Sep 95

[By Sevindzh Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, September 13 (ITAR-TASS) — U.N. Secretary-General special envoy Aldo Agello arrived in Azerbaijan on Wednesday [13 September] on a brief visit to discuss the preparation of a meeting between Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev and U.N. Secretary-General Butrus-Butrus Ghali.

Aliyev and Butrus-Ghali will meet within the framework of a jubilee session of the United Nations Organisation due to be held in New York in October.

Agello said that during the upcoming meeting the two sides will discuss the settlement of the Azerbaijani-Armenian conflict. The U.N. is interested in a positive resolution of this problem and supports the efforts by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and its Minsk group on Nagorno-Karabakh to settle the conflict by peaceful means. The U.N. is also ready to take the necessary measures to give an impulse to the Armenian-Azerbaijani talks, he said.

The last round of talks attended by Agello which ended in Moscow last Saturday focused on the key aspects and helped bridge the gap in the sides' positions. At the same time, the Azerbaijani foreign minister said that Azerbaijan's position remains unchanged.

Foreign Minister Receives UN Envoy

NC1409072295 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov today received Aldo Agello, the UN Secretary-General's special adviser and assistant. We have a report by Menzere Sadikova:

[Begin recording] [Sadikova] In receiving the UN Secretary-General's special adviser, Gasan Gasanov said Azerbaijan expects much from Mr. Aldo Agello's visit and that it cannot be regarded as an ordinary one.

In explaining the aim of his visit, the guest stated that he has come to Azerbaijan on the instructions of Butrus Butrus-Ghali, who is closely following the progress at the talks for the peaceful settlement of the long-standing Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. He said it is certain that the UN secretary-general will discuss these matters with the Azerbaijani president during the UN General Assembly meeting in New York in October. Mr. Agello's mission is to prepare this meeting. The UN, which gives special importance to the OSCE's role in settling the conflict, is ready to provide every assistance and is interested in Azerbaijan's position.

In welcoming the statement with satisfaction, Foreign Minister Gasanov noted that Azerbaijan's position is that its territorial integrity must be fully guaranteed. Thus, unconditional peace depends on the complete liberation of the occupied Azerbaijani lands. The UN could help Azerbaijan considerably if it were to activate the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. [end recording]

Gasanov, Agello Discuss Nagorno-Karabakh

LD1309210395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1839 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, Sept 13 (INTERFAX) - Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov told the U.N. secretary general's special envoy, Aldo Agello, that any talk about a comprehensive settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict was a "political bluff," if Armenia did not free the occupied Azerbaijani land.

Agello had arrived in Baku from Moscow Wednesday evening after another round of Armenian-Azerbaijani talks and consultations with the OCSE Minsk Group for Nagorno-Karabakh settlement.

Gasanov remarked that the U.N. could have made a "considerably greater contribution" in the implementation of the U.N. security Council's resolutions on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. He recalled that all four relevant resolutions spoke of the need to free the occupied Azerbaijani land.

For his part, Agello said the goal of his visit to Baku was to prepare a meeting between Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev and U.N. secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali during the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the U.N. in New York this autumn.

Official Doubtful on Success of Yeltsin-Proposed Summit

LD1309195595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1733 GMT 13 Sep 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An official close to President Geydar Aliyev said on Tuesday [12 September] a Caucasus summit proposed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin would be unable to solve the Nagorno-Karabakh problem.

Russia possesses "a considerable peace potential" and Yeltsin's initiative is "valuable," but, "if the omnipotent Russia wishes to resolve the conflict, it can achieve that through separate negotiations, a separate meeting, but having prepared final solutions in advance," state counselor Vafa Guluzade told INTERFAX in an exclusive interview.

"Meetings like the all-Caucasus summit must not become something like a Komsomol (Soviet-era Young Communist League) meeting, where everybody says something but then no decisions are made. It is by no means my desire that the meeting in Sochi planned at Moscow's initiative should be compromised in such a way."

Guluzade said each of the conflicts lacerating Transcaucasia, and the Caucasus in general, "requires separate and close attention." "They are so complicated that doubts inevitably arise that just one inter-Caucasus meeting will be effective, even if it takes place at the highest level."

"Russia is an influential country, it can say a decisive word and achieve a rapid peace settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict," but "the actual situation and the political factors that exist today do not yet give reasons for such a hope," the counselor said.

The summit needs thorough preparation, he said. "The presidents must go to the meeting to sign final decisions and final documents."

Georgia

Shevardnadze Makes Personnel Changes in Eastern Georgia

LD1309192395 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1700 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] We present to you decrees from the head of state [Eduard Shevardnadze].

Davit Savaneli has been released from the post of head of Telavi District [in the Kakheti region of eastern Georgia] administration in connection with his transfer to another job.

The first deputy state representative of the head of state in the Kakheti region, Medea Mezvrishvili, has been appointed head of Telavi District administration.

By decree of the head of state, Levan Tediashvili has been released from the post of state representative of the head of state in the Kakheti region in connection with his participation in the parliamentary elections.

Giorgi Arsenishvili has been appointed state representative of the head of state in the Kakheti region.

Ten Join Presidential Race; 86 Parties To Run

LD1409090595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0843 GMT 14 Sep 95

[By Tengiz Pachkoria]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tbilisi, September 14 (ITAR-TASS) — As many as 86 political and public organisations, movements and associations intend to participate in the Georgian parliamentary elections on November 5, ITAR-TASS learnt at the Republican Central Electoral Commission here on Thursday.

However, 51 of them have to submit lists of 50,000 voters by September 26, who will express their preliminary support for them by signing special forms.

ITAR-TASS also learnt that 10 hopefuls joined the race for the Georgian presidency.

Ioseliani Withdraws From Presidential Election

LD1309140095 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1315 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 13 Sep (IPRINDA) — In an interview with an IPRINDA correspondent yesterday, Member of Parliament Jaba Ioseliani [founder of the Mkhedrioni militia] said that to protest the current situation in the republic, he has withdrawn his nomination for president of Georgia.

Ioseliani stressed again that a police regime has been established in Georgia and that the republican authorities are resorting to old Bolshevik methods.

He said he will support another candidate for president, namely, Academician Guram Kharatishvili (who heads the Tbilisi Institute of Cybernetics).

Abkhaz Parliament Statement on Voronov Murder

LD1309150795 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1400 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is a statement from the Republic of Abkhazia's Supreme Council and Council of Ministers.

One of the inspirers of the separatist movement in Abkhazia, Yuriy Voronov, has been killed in Sukhumi. Politicians link his name to the start of the war in Abkhazia and the setting up of extremist political organizations, such as Aydgilara, the Soyuz bloc, Slavyanskiy Dvor, the People's Party of Abkhazia, Krunk, and others. Voronov put their propagandist ideas to the service of separatism.

He was known to say the following words: Separating Abkhazia from Georgia is my credo as a scientist and my life's main purpose, especially now that it is so close to reality.

Voronov's political provocations, laid down in his so-called academic and research papers, raised nationalist passions among Abkhazians and contained outpourings of anti-Georgian propaganda. In publishing absolutely false pasquils, shot through with distorted ideas, he justified the continuation of the war, the actions of hired killers, and terrorism and genocide against the Georgian people. Apart from that, Voronov initiated of the creation of the government commission for migration to Abkhazia of persons from the republics of the Northern Caucasus. He subsequently took charge of the commission.

So long as he claimed to be a professional politician, Yuriy Voronov should have foreseen what would be the result of the tragedy which has unfolded in Abkhazia, for which he is to blame as much as Abkhaz separatist leader Ardzinba.

In condemning violence, separatism, and terror as a means of achieving political goals and settling personal scores, the Supreme Council and the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia believe that the incident in Sukhumi is a result of the chaos and lawlessness caused by the misanthropic policy of the criminal regime, in which Yuriy Voronov was one of the central figures.

The rumors alleging that the Georgian side was involved in the terrorist act are another attempt to mislead the international community. Taking into account the complex situation which has developed in Abkhazia, we deem it essential that urgent measures should be taken to resolve the conflict and restore constitutional order, and law and order throughout Abkhazia.

Estonia

President Meri Praises 'Warmth' of Swedish Visit

LD1309210595 Tallinn Estonian Television Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The three-day official visit to the Kingdom of Sweden by President Lennart Meri is over and the Estonian delegation has just now landed at Tallinn airport. In an interview given on board the aircraft the president considered it necessary first and foremost to emphasize the surprising warmth, friendship, and attention with which the delegation had been received in Sweden.

About the substance of his visit, Meri said that Estonia reiterated its positions on the issue of joining the European Union and NATO clearly to both Sweden and the world. This was done by the president himself during his meeting with Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson as well as by Foreign Minister Riivo Sinijarv and Defense Minister Andrus Oovel at the meetings with their Swedish counterparts. [passage omitted]

The third and last day of the Swedish visit brought the presidential couple to Gotland, an island similar to the Estonian Saaremaa in nature and history. [passage omitted] The meeting at the Visby military region's headquarters (in the afternoon) took place, however, behind closed doors. During the ensuing news conference President Meri said that, naturally, security issues had been discussed. [passage omitted]

[Begin Meri recording] From the Estonian point of view, it is of course Estonia's future in the name of which we live. This means Estonian security, this means our cooperation with all those countries who are interested in Estonian independence, security, and development. The meeting with Prime Minister Carlsson and the following meeting with the government did not leave a shred of doubt that the wish on the part of Sweden pervades — to support us in everything and (point out to us) everything that would speed us toward acquiring full EU membership. Sweden sees in it even something that meets its interests directly. [passage omitted] Sweden sees, and I think rightly, that close economic cooperation with the EU does not only constitute economic success but also a bigger security guarantee for itself, as a by-product. [end recording]

Premier Says Economy Has Reached 'Stabilization' Stage

WS1309130895 Tallinn ETA in English 1533 GMT 12 Sep 95

["News Release"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The decline in Estonia's economy is coming to an end and economy has reached a new phase called by Estonian Prime Minister Tiit Vahi "reforms with stabilization".

Prime Minister said that a research done by Economy Ministry and Academy of Sciences, which was discussed by the government at its Tuesday session, indicates that the fall in Estonia's economy is coming to an end. Inflation has fallen for a half and producer price indexes have stabilized at 1 per cent monthly increase. Vahi said that the 17 per cent increase of inflation during the reign of his government is 10 per cent less than the 27 per cent average wage increase.

Vahi said this determines the corresponding highlights for planning the state budget of 1996 and speaks of what the government foresaw already 4-5 months ago. First that the state apparatus must be reduced or at least not increased, second that the wages of teachers should be increased 30 per cent. Prime Minister said he hoped that the latter might take place already a couple of months before the end of this financial year.

The government also discussed the state budget situation. Vahi said that fulfillment of 1995 state budget was normal, while the income side of the budget is forecast to be plus or minus 1 per cent of the projected. Vahi said that although he thought it would be minus one per cent, there will be no additional state budget this year.

Vahi did not consider the additional 65 million kroons allocated to municipalities an additional budget but a repayment of state debts to municipalities.

Vahi said it may be possible that an additional 20-30 million kroons might be allocated but till stated that there will be no large additional budget.

Vahi considered this a good sign of better skills of forecasting and of the state institutions beginning to work according to plans that are laid down in the state budget.

Government has discussed the state budget of 1996 already once and it will be discussed anew on September 19.

Government Not To Forgive Tax Debts of State Companies

WS1309145495 Tallinn BNS in English
1000 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Sept 13, BNS — The Cabinet at its meeting on Tuesday [12 September] turned down appeals from four big state companies to wipe off their tax debts.

Commenting on the decision at a press conference, Prime Minister Tiit Vahi said the government was set to no longer practise separating well-performing divisions from big state companies for privatization and leaving debts to the divisions which cannot be sold.

Vahi said changing that policy and seeing to it that state companies be privatized under the best possible terms for the state had been one of the main reasons why his government had put the economics ministry in charge of the Privatization Agency, which formerly was governed by the ministry of finance.

Police Call on Former Security 'Agents' To Confess

WS1409093795 Tallinn BNS in English
1424 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Sept 13, BNS — The Estonian security police published an announcement in a leading national newspaper Tuesday calling on former agents of the KGB and other foreign security and intelligence bodies to confess to their former activity.

The announcement in the Eesti Paevaleht daily says agents and collaborators can make statements at bureaus of the security police in Tallinn and other major cities.

According to a law adopted by the parliament on Feb. 6, informers and employees of foreign security and intelligence bodies must make statements on their activity with the Estonian security police. The names and statements will remain confidential. The names of those who fail to confess within one year's time are to be made public.

The spokesman for the security police has told BNS "surprisingly many people" have come to confess so far. But he declined to give any numbers, saying that was a state secret.

Those agents and informers known to the Estonian authorities who don't come to register themselves are due to see their names published in the official State Gazette in February or March next year.

Germany's Kinkel Supports Visa-Free Regime With Baltics

WS1309150195 Tallinn BNS in English
1000 GMT 13 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riga, Sept 12, BNS — German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel supports introduction of a visa-free regime between Germany and the Baltic states, Latvian Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs said Tuesday at a press conference after returning from Germany.

To conclude such an agreement, Latvia must do all possible to strengthen its borders as well as sign accords with its eastern neighbors on taking back illegal refugees.

Birkavs thinks that signing of the above mentioned agreement would be accelerated by the fact that Latvia and Germany do not have a common border. A special attention must be paid, however, to intensifying the border control in airports and ports.

Birkavs failed to prognosticate when the agreement on introduction of the visa-free regime between both states could be signed.

When speaking about the border guarding forces in Latvia, Kinkel supported their transition under responsibility of the Interior Ministry. Thus it would be possible to promote cooperation of Latvian and German border guards.

Kinkel and Birkavs also discussed European Union's (EU) possible assistance in strengthening the Baltic states' outer borders and resolving illegal immigration problems.

Both ministers tackled the issue of Latvia's integration into EU. Kinkel expressed support for Latvia's sooner integration into this organization and promised to accelerate ratification of the Europe agreement in the German Bundestag.

Kinkel emphasized that, at the moment, Latvia must more actively participate in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, NATO's Partnership for Peace program and other organizations thus giving proof to its desire to integrate into Europe.

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